

Childminder report

Inspection date	28 January 2019
Previous inspection date	9 April 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The childminder provides a stimulating learning environment both inside and outdoors. Children also benefit from regular outings to toddler groups, soft play and the woods. This helps to enhance their learning and to develop an understanding of the community the children live in.
- The childminder works well with staff at other early years settings that children also attend. She frequently shares information about children's development. This helps to provide a consistent approach to children's learning.
- Methods of teaching are good. Children are encouraged to 'have a go' at things themselves. The childminder skilfully shows children how to use equipment and provides a narrative to their play. This helps to develop children's language skills.
- Assessment of children's learning is thorough, the childminder knows exactly what the children can do and their next stage in learning. Children make good progress.
- The childminder is a positive role model, good manners are promoted at all times. Children behave very well. The childminder frequently praises the children for their achievements. This helps to build their confidence and self-esteem.
- The childminder does not always make the best use of her questioning skills to help children think of their own ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- strengthen the already good teaching to help children explore their own ideas and deepen their thinking.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the setting.
- The inspector looked at samples of children's records and other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through written feedback provided on the day.
- The inspector had a tour of the areas of the premises used for childminding purposes.

Inspector

Karen Peters Amphlett

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder demonstrates a strong desire to continually improve. Previous evaluation has seen the childminder improve resources for imaginative play on a larger scale. Children now enjoy making dens. This helps to enhance social and creative skills in children. The childminder is committed to her own professional development. She has undertaken a variety of courses since her last inspection, such as refresher training on the early years foundation stage. This has helped to develop her methods of assessing children's progress and to write precise next steps for their learning. This helps children to make good progress. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection and knows what to do should she have concerns about a child in her care. The childminder implements robust policies and procedures that ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has good relationships with the parents, they speak highly of her. Information on children's development is frequently shared both ways. This helps to provide a consistent approach to children's learning. The childminder has introduced the use of props to activities to enhance her teaching and to allow children more opportunities to see written numbers and letters. This helps to enhance children's understanding of early mathematics and literacy. Activities are exciting, they provide the children with challenge and are well planned to ensure that they meet the children's individual learning needs. The childminder is flexible in her approach to planned activities. She follows the children's lead and adapts teaching accordingly. She skilfully adds resources to enhance learning even further, following on from children's interests. Children are motivated to learn and remain engaged in activities. Children develop many mathematical skills through play. For example, they learn to count, match, sort, compare and develop mathematical language as they build with wooden bricks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have formed strong bonds with the childminder. She has a very calm and kind nature. The children enjoy sharing a giggle with her and snuggling into her for a story before sleep time. There is an effective settling in procedure in place and children settle quickly into the childminder's home. Children are secure, happy and confident in her care. The childminder knows the children very well, she is aware of their likes, dislikes and preferences. She uses this knowledge well to meet their individual needs and children are well cared for. Children learn how to use equipment safely, such as scissors and knives. This helps them to manage their own safety. Children take an active role in the childminder's home, helping with tasks, such as tidying up.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of learning. They are reaching the milestones typical for their age. They leave the setting well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Children become independent learners as they choose their own resources for play. They learn skills for the future as they prepare their own food for snack and independently wash their hands ready for mealtimes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY347439
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10060614
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	9 April 2015

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Watford, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has an appropriate early years qualification at level 3.

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