

Childminder Report

Inspection date

25 April 2016

Previous inspection date

27 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the 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 experienced childminder's quality of teaching is good. She skilfully guides children in their play and provides sensitive explanations to further stimulate their interest and skills. This helps to promote their continued good progress.
- The childminder effectively manages children's behaviour well and promotes their good manners and social skills. Children gain an excellent understanding of boundaries and behaviour expectations and, therefore, feel safe, secure and happy.
- Children are interested and motivated in all that they do. They are happy and confident to express themselves and demonstrate that highly positive relationships are established with the childminder and the other children in her care.
- The childminder establishes positive relationships with parents and the other settings children attend. She works closely with them to support children's individual needs, learning and development. Parents are highly complimentary about the service she provides for them.
- The childminder regularly monitors and assesses children's development and involves the parents in this process. She has clear plans in place to support the next steps in children's learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not routinely evaluate the quality of her assistant's work and provide coaching and mentoring to improve his practice.
- The childminder does not fully empower children to choose resources without seeking adult help. This means that children are, on occasions, limited in exercising personal choice and decisions and fully developing their play independently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the routine monitoring of the quality of the assistant's work and the provision of suitable coaching and mentoring to help improve his good practice
- make it easier for children to choose the resources they want to further support their independence and decision-making skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector viewed the areas in the home used for childminding.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held a meeting with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation, the children's records and evidence of the suitability of the assistant working with the childminder.
- The inspector read the statements provide by the parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Carys Millican

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The experienced childminder is knowledgeable about the potential signs and symptoms that would make her concerned about a child's welfare. The childminder has a range of policies and procedures that she shares with her assistant and parents to help inform them about the service she provides. The childminder has high expectations and asks parents and children for their views to strengthen her practice. She supervises children effectively and completes detailed risk assessments for indoors and outside, as well as for outings. This minimises possible risks to children. The childminder supports children's moves on to nursery or school and makes sure that the transition is as smooth as possible for them.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder plans a range of stimulating experiences and interesting activities for children. She constantly interacts with the children, asking questions to help their thinking processes and skilfully extending their vocabulary through introducing and reinforcing words as they play. All children's communication and language skills are developing well. Children confidently recall past events and share these with others, helping to consolidate their learning. Children recall planting vegetable seeds in the raised beds in the garden and their flowers into pots. They remember how they must water the plants and enthusiastically do this with their small watering cans. Children learn to solve simple problems. They complete wooden jigsaws and competently recognise the shapes in shape-sorter toys. These activities help to develop their mathematical and physical skills. Children eagerly follow instructions, express their ideas creatively and develop their coordination skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop a positive relationship and close attachment with the childminder. The childminder listens carefully to what children say and values their contributions. She constantly praises the children, which raises their confidence, self-esteem and emotional well-being. The childminder implements care routines effectively and places a high emphasis on teaching children about the importance of healthy lifestyles. She provides a range of healthy snacks for children, including seasonal fruit and fresh drinking water. The childminder makes sure children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills. Children go for walks in their community and meet up with other childminders and their children at local social groups. This helps children to learn life skills, such as being part of a group, learning to share and take turns in games, and to value and respect other people's feelings.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their initial starting points. They show they are active learners and enjoy the activities planned for them. Children's language and communication, physical, and personal, social and emotional development are effectively supported. They are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and development, such as school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348058
Local authority	Darlington
Inspection number	849444
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	27 January 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Darlington. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6.15pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant and holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. The childminder provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year old children. She supports children who speak English as an additional language.

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