

Childminder Report

Inspection date

13 April 2016

Previous inspection date

20 October 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

- Children engage in activities that offer plenty of challenge to move them forward in their learning and development. The childminder assesses their learning thoroughly and offers them effective interactions to build on their spontaneous interests as they play.
- The childminder supports children's literacy development particularly well. Children develop their reading and writing skills through activities that are consistent with those offered in the schools they will eventually attend.
- The childminder develops effective partnerships with parents. They continuously exchange information about what children know and can do. Children experience good continuity in their learning and achievement across the setting and at home.
- Children build secure emotional relationships with the childminder. They readily seek her out for support and she is highly responsive and sensitive to their needs. Children display high levels of self-esteem and are skilfully supported to learn right from wrong.
- The childminder has a clear vision of how to drive improvement. She regularly completes additional training and enhances her knowledge and skills to improve her practice with the children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Partnership working with the other early years settings that children attend is not always fully promoted to build on the regular two-way exchange of information in order to support children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the two-way exchange of information with other early years settings to enhance children's learning across the different settings they attend.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents expressed in written testimonials.
- The inspector observed an activity and jointly evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including the childminder's self-evaluation form and the children's learning records.

Inspector

Sarah Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder has made significant improvements since the last inspection. She has worked tirelessly to follow up support provided by a local authority adviser and her knowledge and skills are strong. The use of self-evaluation is now well embedded to enhance the quality of the provision for children. The childminder monitors all aspects of her practice and makes good improvements based on the views expressed by parents and children. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has refreshed her training in safeguarding and maintains a good understanding of procedures to follow if she is worried about a child's welfare. Risk assessments are an integral feature in the childminder's daily practice. She responds effectively to minimise all hazards and implements effective safety measures to further enhance children's safety.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder successfully monitors her assessments of children's learning to identify areas where they need further support or challenge. She uses this information to plan stimulating activities that support children's next steps and effectively close any gaps in their learning. This is a significant improvement since the last inspection. Children make good progress, particularly in their language skills. The childminder provides a language-rich environment where children are confident to communicate their ideas and keen to learn to articulate new words. Younger children use accurate language to describe the feeling of mixing and squeezing artificial snow between their fingers. The childminder interacts well with the children as they play. She provides good opportunities for children to solve problems and explore their spontaneous interests. Children demonstrate great curiosity when they notice a garlic press on the draining board. The childminder skilfully gives children time to manipulate the press in different ways and talks them through the process of making garlic butter.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form a secure bond with the childminder and respond well to her calm and nurturing approach. Information about children's routines at home and starting points is routinely gathered from parents. The childminder tailors the provision to meet children's individual needs and they develop a strong sense of belonging at the setting. Children make choices about what they want to do and confidently express their likes and dislikes, which the childminder recognises and values. Behaviour is good. The childminder fosters children's kindness towards each other and provides them with ample encouragement to motivate their independence. Children adopt many aspects of a healthy lifestyle. They exercise readily in the garden and the childminder talks to them about healthy eating during cooking activities.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress from their starting points. They are keen to join in with activities and show good levels of concentration and engagement. Their independence is developing well and they are successfully learning key skills to prepare them for school. Children are confident communicators from a young age and express their wishes freely.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY348693
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1031388
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	30
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2015
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Colchester, Essex. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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