

Childminder Report

Inspection date

6 May 2016

Previous inspection date

16 February 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 childminder's teaching is strong and children make good progress. She takes note of what motivates children to learn and plans activities based on their interests and ideas.
- The childminder supports children to develop early literacy skills. On arrival, children self-register by finding their picture or name. The childminder has books displayed in a quiet, comfortable area in her hallway. This encourages children to look at and enjoy books for learning and pleasure.
- Children are independent and confident to explore the safe and welcoming environment. A varied range of resources is available to children. They eagerly select what they want to play with and this helps to develop their independence.
- The childminder promotes children's language development through her supportive interactions during daily routines and play activities. She talks to them about what they are doing and gives them time to respond.
- The childminder uses self-evaluation to reflect on her practice. She takes into account the views of parents which she gains from questionnaires and her regular discussions with them.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder generally builds good partnerships with parents. However, she does not always successfully engage all parents to be involved in the assessments of children's learning.
- The childminder does not make best use of opportunities to help children develop skills in operating technological toys and equipment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for parents to contribute to children's development and assessments
- provide children with further opportunities to develop their skills in operating and using technology toys and equipment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder joining in activities with children and discussed the learning that was taking place with her.
- The inspector saw the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation. Evidence of the suitability of household members and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy, were also seen.
- The inspector took account of the childminder's self-evaluation form and the views of parents.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is confident about following child protection procedures, which helps to promote children's welfare. She implements her robust policies and procedures to help her keep children safe. The childminder effectively reviews children's progress. This ensures that any weaknesses in learning are quickly identified and strategies are put in place to close them. The childminder is well qualified, she networks with other childminders and undertakes training to develop her knowledge and skills. Through written references and thank you cards, parents express high levels of satisfaction with the care and education that the childminder provides.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder knows the children well. She recognises patterns in children's play and researches how she can promote their learning even more. For example, she provides construction blocks and train tracks for children to fix together and gives them time to experiment and explore. Children enjoy investigating paint and dough. They use their hands to print and mix colours together. Children are becoming skilful at using tools for a purpose. They use scissors to snip at dough and are proud to show they can do this with both hands. The childminder is aware of children's next steps for learning and is able to ensure that the activities they experience continue to interest and motivate them. The childminder uses daily diaries and discussions to help the parents know what the children are doing through the day. She takes into account what children have been doing at home and plans activities to complement their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form strong, emotional attachments with the childminder and are relaxed in her welcoming home. The childminder has clear, consistent boundaries in place. This helps children to manage their own behaviour and they show respect for the childminder and for each other. Children are supported well in developing the skills that they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The childminder provides nutritious snacks and she talks to the children about the healthy choices they make. Children thoroughly enjoy playing in the garden. They look carefully at spiders and the childminder supports their learning about living things as she talks to them about the web. Walks in the local community and trips to local parks promote fun and exercise. The childminder takes children to local toddler groups. Children benefit from socialising within larger groups and engage in a wider range of activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. They engage well in their chosen activities and are developing into independent learners. Children have many opportunities to practise their early writing skills. They enjoy making big marks on the patio using brushes and water and give meaning to the marks they make on the chalkboard. They are developing key skills which prepare them well for future learning at nursery and ultimately at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY355684
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	863411
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 February 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Stevenage. She operates on Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 5.30pm, through school term times. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3.

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