

Childminder report

Inspection date	14 February 2019
Previous inspection date	6 May 2016

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 is warm, welcoming and caring. She is a very good role model, treating children with kindness and respect. Children form close relationships with her and show their affection for her, helping to support their emotional well-being.
- The childminder knows the children well. She regularly observes them to identify their interests and abilities. She uses this information to help her plan interesting and challenging activities that support and motivate children to make good progress.
- The childminder establishes good relationships with other settings that children attend, including school. This helps to support consistency in children's care and learning.
- Children develop a love of books. They enjoy sitting with the childminder as she reads their favourite stories. She encourages them to help turn the pages and talk about the pictures.
- Children learn about animals and the world around them. They thoroughly enjoy visiting the local pet shop to see the animals and birds. They often go to the park to feed the ducks on the lake.
- The childminder keeps parents informed of their children's progress. For example, they have regular discussions and the childminder shares information in a daily diary for the younger children. Parents are given ideas of how they can support their children's learning at home.
- Systems for tracking children's achievements are not yet fully developed to enable children's progress to be accurately monitored from the start.
- At times, the childminder does not make the best use of opportunities to encourage children to do more for themselves and extend their independence even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the systems for tracking children's achievements, to enable children's progress to be more accurately monitored from the start
- provide children with further opportunities to allow them to be even more independent.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises and viewed the areas used by the children.
- The inspector observed the children interacting with the childminder.
- The inspector discussed children's learning and development with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through reading written feedback provided.

Inspector
Jacqui Oliver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder is committed to providing a safe environment where children can play, learn and develop. She is keen to keep up to date with new ideas and build on her knowledge and skills. For example, she completes relevant training and regularly meets up with other childminders to share good practice. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a very good understanding of how to keep children safe. She knows who to contact if she has a concern about a child's safety or welfare. The childminder conducts regular risk assessments of the premises, garden and on outings. Parents comment very positively on the childminder's care for their children. They say that she makes them very welcome and that she offers them a safe and happy environment. The childminder regularly reviews her practice and asks parents for suggestions of how she can develop her provision further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn. She helps them to follow their interests and play with toys and resources that capture their imagination. The childminder supports children to develop good listening and speaking skills. For example, she consistently asks them questions to make them think. She speaks clearly to encourage the correct pronunciation of words. The childminder makes the most of opportunities for children to hear and use numbers and counting. For example, when making Valentine cakes, children measured out the ingredients. Children have many opportunities for mark making. For example, they love to use sticks to 'write' in rice, which helps to support their early writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy playing together and making close friendships. The childminder gives them plenty of praise and encouragement. Children demonstrate that they feel valued and develop high levels of self-esteem. They behave very well. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. The childminder encourages good handwashing routines and ensures that children have daily opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. She promotes healthy eating and provides children with nutritious snacks and meals. Children learn to keep themselves safe. For example, they discuss how to cross the road safely. Children become familiar with the school environment and teachers as they accompany the childminder when she takes older children to school.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their individual starting points. They attend local playgroups where they learn to mix with other children, share and take turns. Younger children take part in activities enthusiastically, such as singing their favourite songs. They happily join in with the actions and move their bodies in time with the music. Older children learn to count, recognise shapes and begin to understand size. They recognise simple letters and words, such as their name. Children are developing the skills they need to be successful in their future learning and eventually for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY355684
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10073913
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2016

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Stevenage. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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