

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 August 2015

Previous inspection date

3 April 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The quality of teaching is good. The childminder provides a stimulating environment indoors for children to learn in. Children enjoy choosing their own resources from the wide range that is freely available to them.
- The childminder helps children to learn about numbers. She uses everyday routines to model counting to children, such as counting the toys as they put them away.
- Children have strong emotional attachments to the childminder who is very caring and attentive to their needs. This enables the children to explore the environment with confidence.
- Partnerships with parents are good, which is evident from their written documentation, thank-you cards and questionnaires. Parents express their very high levels of satisfaction with the care and education that the childminder provides.
- The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. She promotes children's safety and welfare by the implementation of her effective policies and procedures.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The initial information that the childminder obtains from parents is not always sufficiently detailed to fully support her early identification of children's precise learning needs.
- The childminder does not always use her garden to full effect to support the all-round development of the children, particularly those who prefer to learn outdoors.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the level of initial information obtained from parents to include more precise details of children's stages of development
- extend the planning of outdoor activities to promote the all-round development of children, particularly those who prefer to learn outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder engaging in activities with the children and discussed the learning that was taking place at appropriate times.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the house and garden that are used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation, evidence of the suitability of household members and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, as recorded in written documents.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The quality of teaching is good. The childminder provides fun learning experiences for children. Children enjoy using the open space in the hallway for rolling toy vehicles. The childminder plays alongside them and effectively models language as she describes what is happening. Children demonstrate their developing drawing skills as they make precise marks with crayons. They show interest in the colours and engage well in their chosen activity. They are highly motivated and are developing the key skills for the next stage of their learning, such as nursery or school. The childminder regularly carries out detailed observations and assessments. Her planning is focused and effectively supports all children's individual learning needs. Parents are kept well informed of their children's ongoing achievements and how to support their children's learning at home. The childminder works closely with them to obtain relevant information when children first begin attending. However, she does not always gain enough detail about children's development to inform her initial assessments and plan more precise next steps in their early learning.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

The childminder encourages children to be independent by giving them opportunities to do things for themselves. For example, she encourages children to tidy away toys when they have finished using them. The childminder gives children clear instructions and praises them well. She is very aware of which children prefer to learn outdoors and ensures that they have access to the garden each day. However, the childminder's planning for spending time outdoors mainly focuses on physical development. There are fewer opportunities available outdoors to promote children's overall development to the highest level. The childminder regularly meets with other childminders and their minded children. The children play together and enjoy outings, which helps them to develop good social skills. Important care information is shared well between the childminder and parents. As a result, children's individual needs are consistently met and there is effective continuity of care.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The childminder is committed to promoting her good quality provision for children. She evaluates what is working and what she needs to improve. She continues her professional development by attending training courses and using online forums. This has had a positive impact on her practice. The childminder reflects on the activities she provides and the progress children are making. This ensures any gaps in learning are quickly identified and strategies are put in place to narrow them. The childminder has formed positive relationships with other settings that children attend. This enables information relating to children's achievements in learning to be shared, in order to further support continuity in their learning. The childminder has a secure knowledge of how to keep children safe. She continually reviews risks in the environment and on outings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY359192
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	863586
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	3 April 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in London Colney. She operates all year round from 7.15am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except for family holidays.

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