

Childminder report

Inspection date	17 September 2018
Previous inspection date	25 November 2015

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

The provision is good

- The childminder works hard to improve her practice. She continues her professional development to enhance her knowledge so that she can provide a good level of care for all of the children and is able to meet their needs.
- Strong partnerships are formed with the parents of the children in the childminder's care. She ensures that she has a good understanding of the children's individual requirements so that they feel settled. Parents are very complimentary about the care that the childminder offers their children.
- The childminder uses her assessments of children's learning and development well, overall, to plan effectively for their next steps. Children make good progress with the childminder.
- Children demonstrate good levels of behaviour. The childminder acts as a positive role model and provides children with clear instructions as to what she expects from them. This supports them to follow the rules and interact positively and politely with each other.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- At times, the childminder does not use the range of questions she asks effectively to support children to develop their problem-solving and thinking skills.
- Younger children do not consistently have enough opportunities to explore the range of resources on offer, using all of their senses.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the use of questioning to support children effectively to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills
- encourage younger children to explore and investigate further, using all their senses.

Inspection activities

- The inspector considered the suitability of the areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at suitable points throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including the childminder's training certificates, policies and children's progress documents.
- The inspector read emails from parents of children who are cared for by the childminder and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector observed an activity and held a discussion with the childminder about the impact of the teaching on children's learning.

Inspector

Jennifer Hardy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a clear understanding of the process to follow and whom to contact if she has concerns about the welfare of a child. She regularly reflects on the service that she offers and takes on board comments and suggestions from parents. Partnerships with other professionals, such as local schools, are good. The childminder communicates with them regarding children's welfare and development to support continuity in their care and learning. She networks with other childminders to support her practice further, for instance, through attending weekly groups with the children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children learn effectively through the childminder's good teaching. Her positive interactions provide younger children with support and reassurance while they learn. She talks to them as they play, which helps them to expand many aspects of their early language skills. The childminder guides children as they begin to count and recognise numbers. She knows the children well and she uses their interests to support their learning. Children use equipment, such as interlocking blocks to stack and make models, which helps them to develop their hand-to-eye coordination. The childminder supports children to develop their understanding of different cultures, for instance, as they create artwork for various celebrations, such as Christmas and Diwali.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides children with a welcoming and happy environment. Her calm nature supports children to feel safe and secure. She attends to children's personal care needs sympathetically. Children are offered a variety of healthy food choices and the childminder is extremely vigilant to ensure that children with allergies are provided with appropriate snacks and meals. The childminder has a positive attitude with the children and acknowledges their efforts. For example, she uses positive praise when they attempt to complete a jigsaw puzzle independently. Children grow in confidence as they gain new skills, such as when they practise climbing the steps on the slide at the park. They are reassured by the childminder being nearby to support them, if needed, as they practise these new-found abilities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children progress well from their starting points and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. They keenly stay focused at the activities they choose. Children enjoy dancing to familiar songs and sing along to the words that they know. They use pretend cameras and telephones as they play, which helps them to develop their imaginations. They become independent through activities, such as learning to put their shoes on by themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY364906
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063601
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2015

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7am to 6pm, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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