

Childminder report

Inspection date	21 November 2018
Previous inspection date	14 November 2014

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 is qualified and experienced in her role. She manages her provision in a safe and efficient manner to ensure good-quality care for children.
- Children's well-being is promoted successfully. The childminder is warm and caring and highly responsive to children's needs, such as when they are tired or need reassurance. Children have high levels of self-esteem and confidence and are very happy and settled in the childminder's care.
- The childminder carefully observes children, makes accurate assessments of their learning and monitors their progress. She plans activities that offer children a good level of challenge and successfully help them achieve what they need to learn next. This prepares them well for the next stage of their learning, such as school.
- Parents speak very highly of the care their children receive. For example, they say that the childminder, 'Is a credit to her childminding profession' and that she, 'Provides an excellent, caring service in a lovely family environment'.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always make the best use of her good partnerships with parents to maximise their engagement in their child's learning at the setting and to offer ideas and suggestions of things to do at home.
- The childminder has not established a highly focused programme of professional development to drive forward the quality of teaching to an even higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore even more ways to engage parents in their child's learning in the setting and to offer ideas for additional things to do at home
- focus more precisely on developing a targeted programme of professional development to drive the quality of teaching to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity 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 spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector

Lindsey Pollock

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a secure understanding of how to protect children from harm. She keeps informed of changes and updates to child protection procedures and is confident about what to do should she have concerns about a child. The premises are safe and children are well supervised. Robust arrangements are in place for ensuring children's safety on outings. For example, high-visibility vests are used when necessary, such as on visits to busy places, so children are kept clearly in view. The childminder evaluates her provision and is reflective of her practice. Overall, she consults with parents well and implements new ways of working to benefit the children effectively. Since her last inspection, the childminder has taken successful steps to enhance the environment so that children can make choices about what they wish to play with, promoting further their independence.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder knows what interests the children in her care and plans activities around these. For example, she recognises their fascination with trains and plans activities, such as making their own vehicles and trips to the train station. The childminder supports children's communication and language through her skilful interactions. She engages in dialogue with them to support their acquisition of language and appropriately models how to pronounce words. She helps extend children's thinking skills and uses effective open-ended questioning that gives them the time to consider their responses.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder manages children's behaviour well. She is calm and gives children clear, consistent messages about sharing, taking turns and being kind to each other. She teaches children about safe practices, such as how to handle scissors safely, and explains the possible consequences to develop their understanding. Regular attendance at toddler groups helps children learn how to mix socially with others and prepares them for school. Trips in the local community to places, such as parks, build on children's physical development and their understanding of the world. Good provision is made to promote children's health and they quickly learn about the importance of good hygiene routines.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning. They are enthusiastic, contribute fully in activities and maintain good levels of concentration during play. They are skilful communicators and engage and converse well with children and adults. They develop good independence skills, such as making choices about their play and managing their personal care. They enjoy practising their number recognition and counting through daily routines and as they play with the plentiful resources.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY366396
Local authority	Darlington
Inspection number	10060079
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 14
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	14 November 2014

The childminder registered in 2008. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has a childcare qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for three-year-old children.

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