

Childminder report

Inspection date	24 May 2019
Previous inspection date	15 September 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

This provision is good

- Children learn and explore using all of their senses. For instance, the childminder supports them to rub the leaves on the herbs they have planted and smell them.
- The childminder knows the children she cares for well. She recognises their current interests and provides them with resources that interest and motivate them. For example, children enjoy playing with the construction toys outside.
- The childminder provides children with a happy and relaxed environment in which to learn. She forms strong bonds with the children. Babies and children turn to her for comfort and reassurance when they need to.
- The childminder assesses children's progress well. She accurately identifies areas where children need further support. She supports children to achieve relevant next steps in their learning, which helps them to be prepared for their move to school.
- Children are not always supported effectively to share their ideas and use their imaginations during their pretend play.
- The childminder does not always use appropriate methods to support non-verbal children to learn how to share and take turns with others.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to share their ideas and use their imaginations to extend their learning during pretend play even further
- support non-verbal children more effectively to help them to further develop their sharing and turn-taking skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector considered the suitability of the areas of the premises used for childminding indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector read letters from parents. She took their views into consideration.
- The inspector observed the childminder's teaching. She discussed the impact of the teaching on children's learning with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies and children's learning records.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Jennifer Hardy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder knows how to identify the possible signs of abuse. She is confident in the process to follow to report her concerns to the relevant authorities. The childminder completes training to support her professional development. She monitors her provision and makes improvements to enhance the environment further. For instance, she adapts storage in her home to enable children to select resources more independently. The childminder supports children's continuity of care. For example, she holds daily discussions with staff at other settings children attend. Parents are very complimentary about the service the childminder offers. They feel well informed about their children's progress. The childminder takes the children to regular playgroups where she networks with other childminders. These groups also support children to develop their social skills and experience a range of learning environments.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder supports children's learning well. Children develop their speech through motivating activities. For instance, they begin to sing the words to familiar songs. The childminder skilfully links different areas of the children's learning. For example, she counts the number of puppets on children's fingers as they sing together. This helps children to develop their early counting skills. Children strengthen their muscles as they play, such as when they roll the play dough into balls. This also helps them to build the muscles they need to hold pencils and write. The childminder recognises children's individual stages of learning and adapts activities appropriately. For example, babies add large pieces to animal puzzle boards, which helps them to build their hand-to-eye coordination. Meanwhile, older children match the correct pieces to the corresponding animals and make the relevant animal sounds enthusiastically.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children follow instructions from the childminder and she explains to them clearly why it is important that they do so. For instance, she explains to them that they need to sit carefully at the table so they do not fall and hurt themselves. The childminder works closely with parents to support children's needs. For example, she carefully monitors ongoing health conditions to support children's well-being. Children are provided with a healthy range of food throughout the day. The childminder supports children to understand the importance of good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands to get rid of germs. Children are very familiar with the routines of the day. They eagerly help the childminder to tidy the toys away when they have finished playing.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their initial starting points. They gain the skills they require to move on to the next stage in their learning. Babies are inquisitive. For example, they watch the bubbles intently as they float through the sky. Older children grow in confidence. They keenly involve visitors in their play and explain what they are doing. Children develop independently. They use tools accurately, such as using forks to eat their lunch. They learn to complete tasks, such as putting on their shoes by themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY366943
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063603
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	15 September 2015

The childminder registered in 2008 and lives in Borehamwood. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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