

Childminder Report

Inspection date

11 April 2018

Previous inspection date

18 June 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the 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 plans a variety of activities and experiences based securely on her assessment of children's progress. She skilfully follows children's lead as they play and extends activities to challenge their skills in critical thinking. The quality of teaching is consistently good.
- The childminder is particularly effective in supporting children's communication and language skills. She models language clearly and asks carefully phrased questions. This helps children to widen their vocabulary in conversations.
- Positive behaviour is modelled well by the childminder. Children are supported to play together cooperatively and express how they are feeling. They benefit from consistent praise and encouragement, which helps to develop high levels of self-esteem.
- The childminder strives to keep abreast of changes in legislation and often reflects on the quality of her practice. For example, she attends local authority cluster meetings to share new ideas and explore safeguarding procedures in more detail with other experienced practitioners.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children have few opportunities to build on their interest in exploring aspects of the natural world and living things.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for children to learn about different aspects of living things and the natural world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to a parent and took account of their views expressed in written testimonials.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including evidence of training and the suitability of those living and working at the setting.

Inspector

Sarah Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder's commitment to regular safeguarding training helps to equip her with up-to-date knowledge of child protection procedures. For example, she extends her awareness of how to identify when a child may be a risk of exposure to extreme views and behaviours. This helps to protect children from harm. There are well-established partnerships with parents, the local school and nearby pre-schools. The childminder shares a good deal of information with them about children's care and learning. This helps to enhance the consistency children experience across the different settings they attend. Self-evaluation is used to good effect and plans for improvement are well targeted to the needs of the children. The childminder is keen to introduce the use of sign language to help enrich younger children's communication skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder makes accurate observations and monitors children's progress closely. She quickly identifies areas where children need additional support to help them move forward in their learning. Interactions are rich and all children are involved in challenging and enjoyable learning experiences. For example, during a walk, the childminder encourages younger children to look carefully for objects that match the colour of their favourite superhero. Children spend time connecting pieces of train track, which helps to extend their skills in solving problems and exploring measures. Their creativity and imaginative thinking are fostered well. For instance, while manipulating pieces of dough, children describe the features of their models and develop stories for their characters.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder offers an abundance of comfort, support and reassurance to children as and when required throughout the day. This helps to foster children's emotional well-being so that they settle quickly and feel assured in her care. Children enjoy daily outings to local parks and green spaces, which helps to increase their exposure to fresh air and physical exercise. The childminder is mindful to ensure children benefit from a balanced and nutritious diet. For example, she offers additional pieces of fresh fruit and vegetables to complement the packed lunches children bring from home. The childminder prompts children to join in with positive tasks, such as tidying away toys. This helps to foster their independence and sense of responsibility in readiness for school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are very interested and motivated learners. They make good progress and develop a wide range of skills in preparation for their eventual move to school. For example, they begin to talk about the letters in their names and listen to older children pronouncing the sounds that letters represent. Children are keen to manipulate different objects to see how they work. They refine their finer physical skills as they use their fingers to rotate a small pulley. They show a good understanding of mathematical concepts and use positional language such as 'up' and 'down' to describe the movement of the pulley. Children form positive friendships and show consideration towards others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY370295
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1065129
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 7
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	18 June 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2008 and lives in Harlow, Essex. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6.30pm from Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification at level 3.

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