

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 October 2015

Previous inspection date

17 March 2009

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 age-appropriate activities for children that support their interests and offer challenge and excitement. As a result, children are motivated and eager to learn.
- The childminder provides a welcoming and homely environment for the children. She considers all their needs when new children are settling. This helps all children to feel safe and confident in her care.
- The childminder takes account of the views of parents. Parents' written comments are positive about the care and activities the childminder provides and the positive impact this has on children's development.
- The childminder is committed to providing a high-quality service to benefit children. She includes the views of parents and children to implement plans to drive improvement.
- The childminder helps children to learn about the local community. They regularly visit the weekly market and enjoy choosing books at the library.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities for children to learn about the cultures and traditions of other communities and families are not fully explored.
- The childminder does not always use information from all parents about children's ongoing learning at home to enhance their ongoing progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to understand the experiences of communities and families beyond their own
- make better use of existing strategies to engage all parents in sharing the progress their children make at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder engaging in activities with children and at appropriate times, jointly discussed the learning that was taking place.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation. Evidence of the suitability of household members and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy, were also seen.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and the childminder's self-evaluation form.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to protect and safeguard children. Through the implementation of effective policies and procedures, she actively promotes children's safety and welfare. The childminder shares these with parents when they register with her. This enables parents to understand how she meets all legal requirements. The childminder regularly reflects on her practice. Since her last inspection, she has gained a level 3 qualification which has had a positive impact on her knowledge and understanding. The childminder reviews children's progress and the activities she provides. This ensures that any gaps in learning are quickly identified and strategies are put in place to narrow them. She accesses training and meets with other childminders to help her to support children to make the best possible progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder gives children time and space to explore the toys and activities available to them. She supports children's learning by playing alongside them and modelling language. She skilfully introduces numbers as she counts how many blocks are in a tower. The childminder praises children well as they join in with counting to a higher number than they have before. Children enjoy using their early writing skills as they use a magnetic drawing pad. The childminder is aware of children's next steps and is able to ensure that the activities they experience are interesting and challenging. This helps children make good progress. The childminder meets with parents when they register with her. She gains clear information on what children can do at home. However, she does not always consistently use the ongoing information on what children do and achieve at home to maximise her support for their ongoing learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides a caring and nurturing environment where children are happy and settled. Children are supported well in developing the skills that they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle. They are provided with nutritious snacks and meals each day. The childminder uses her garden and local parks to enable children to have fun outdoors. They use the equipment to develop their physical skills and have fun in the fresh air. The childminder regularly meets with other childminders and attends toddler groups. These activities help children to socialise and begin to make friends with others of their own age. Children have many opportunities to be independent as they choose with what and where they want to play and what fruit to eat for their snack.

Outcomes for children are good

The childminder makes good use of activities to develop children's skills in readiness for nursery and school. These activities, along with the quality observations and assessments, help to ensure that children make consistently good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY382687
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	858777
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	17 March 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2008 and lives in St Albans. She operates all year round from 8am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3.

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