

Childminder report

Inspection date	12 December 2018
Previous inspection date	10 June 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		Not Applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The childminder and her co-childminder work well together to share information and ideas to ensure children have good experiences in the setting.
- There is a good two-way flow of information between the school and the childminder. This helps to develop a consistent approach to supporting children's care and learning.
- The childminder has successfully introduced strategies to help younger children feel secure and settled. An older child is designated as a helper to guide and support children who may feel anxious. They make sure they know where to wash their hands and that they have someone to talk to while they are waiting for their dinner.
- Children are learning how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know they must walk back from school holding their friend's hand and the childminder helps them to decide when it is safe to cross the road.
- The childminder does not focus her assistant's professional development sharply enough on helping them to be fully confident about their role and responsibilities, to provide consistent care to the children.
- During creative activities, the childminder does not consistently encourage children to try things for themselves and to 'have a go'.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus the assistant's professional development and target more precisely areas that will raise the quality and consistency of practice to a higher level
- provide more opportunities for children to try new things and follow their own ways of doing things.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at a range of documents relating to the childminding practice.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder, her co-childminder and her assistant at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector accompanied the childminder to collect children from school and walked with them back to her house.
- The inspector took account of written testimonials from parents and spoke with parents when they collected their children.
- The inspector observed children while they played.

Inspector
Fiona Sapler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder evaluates her provision well and has made good improvements since her previous inspection. For example, she has bought new tables and chairs to ensure all children can sit comfortably at mealtimes. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder keeps up to date with core safeguarding training and is knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She understands clearly what actions to take to ensure that children remain safe. Parents recommend the childminder highly, and say their children are happy and settled.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a secure understanding of the age group she works with and provides a home-from-home environment where children can relax and play after school. She knows the children well and provides a range of toys and equipment that she recognises they will enjoy playing with. For example, children immediately start playing mummies and daddies when they come back from school. They feed their babies from a bottle and take them for a walk in the pushchair. The childminder observes children's play and uses these observations to introduce activities that will support their further development. For instance, she provides squeeze tubes of icing to help them develop the muscles they need to enhance their writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder has formed close relationships with the children. They are very excited to see her after their day at school. The childminder is a good role model for the children, who are respectful and show care and consideration for each other. For example, they ask for a blanket and make sure their friends are warm enough when they do not feel well. Children are very well behaved and clearly understand the house rules. They know they must hang their coats up and put their bags tidily away before going to play. The childminder supports children's good health. Children talk about how they are exercising when they walk back from school, and they can choose from two healthy meal options for dinner.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY396914
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10085828
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	4 - 7
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	14
Date of previous inspection	10 June 2015

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. She works with a co-childminder and occasionally works with an assistant. The childminder offers out-of-school care from 3pm to 7pm, Monday to Friday, during term time, and from 7am to 6pm during the school holidays. She is a member of the local childminding network.

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