

Inspection date	9 March 2015
Previous inspection date	18 May 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder has an extensive knowledge of how children learn, which enables her to plan extremely interesting activities. Her commentary throughout children's play effectively promotes their communication skills exceedingly well. She models the use of new language, which helps to extend each child's vocabulary. Children make very rapid progress towards the early learning goals.
- The childminder has an excellent understanding of safeguarding procedures. She holds a qualification at level 3 in child protection and has recently completed training in 'Child exploitation and online safety'. Her expert knowledge ensures that she fully protects children's safety and welfare at all times.
- Partnerships with parents are exemplary. The childminder meets with them regularly to discuss their children's learning and development. Together, they create a plan of how they can enhance children's progress to the very optimum. The childminder provides home learning packs for parents to do with their children. This promotes an excellent continuity of learning for all children.
- The childminder is highly motivated, very enthusiastic and has exceedingly high expectations of herself. She is currently completing an early years qualification at level 3 and regularly attends training to extend her already excellent knowledge. This has an extremely positive impact on children's learning.
- The childminder provides a highly stimulating and exciting learning environment for children, both indoors and outdoors. Children are able to access toys independently and thrive in her superbly resourced setting.
- The childminder supports children during important and difficult changes in their lives exceedingly well. She is very compassionate towards the whole family and parents say she is 'immensely stable and supportive' for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider even more strategies to build upon the already very successful partnerships with other settings that children attend, to continue to enhance children's excellent learning and progress to the very optimum.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children taking part in a range of activities and spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability checks for the childminder and those persons over the age of 16 years living in the household.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, policies and procedures and the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector has taken account of the views of parents, as recorded in reference letters provided by the childminder.

Inspector

Katherine Hurst

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The quality of teaching is exceptional. For example, the childminder plans a sensory experience using a wide range of additional resources, such as, toy animals, shells and natural objects. She uses books and songs to further extend children's learning and provides a commentary throughout their play. Children remain very engaged in play for significant periods of time, given their young age. The childminder responds sensitively to children's emerging interests. For example, when children enjoy a particular story, the childminder plans a wide range of inspiring activities to enhance their learning even further. This includes accessing resources from the local toy library, such as lifecycle puzzles and story sacks, to use with her or at home with their parents. The childminder buys seeds for the children to plant in pots and watch over time to see how they grow. She expertly promotes children's early knowledge about science and how the world works. This prepares children exceedingly well for future learning in school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children have very confident dispositions because the childminder maximises opportunities to raise their self-esteem. She praises them for their achievements and demonstrates how much she values them through her extremely loving and caring nature. Children enthusiastically explore the learning environment and enjoy their time at the setting very much. Children have lots of opportunities to play and exercise outside in the fresh air. The childminder has a well-resourced garden, which includes a mud kitchen for exploratory play, and she takes children on daily walks around the local area. This includes visits to the parks and various group activities, which enables children to develop excellent social skills. The childminder provides nutritious meals and snacks, and she teaches children about the benefits of eating well. This helps children to learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles and how they can contribute to them.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and implements it exceedingly well. She effectively monitors the quality of her setting and ensures consistently high standards at all times. The childminder regularly reflects on her teaching and care. This enables her to understand her strengths and how she could further enhance her practice. For example, the childminder fully understands the importance of excellent partnerships with other professionals to support children's individual needs. She would like to implement even further ways to work collaboratively with other settings that children attend to ensure their optimal progress at all times. The childminder is also keen to continue to extend her knowledge through regular training and to enhance children's outdoor learning even further through more exploratory play in the natural environment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY401689
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	850379
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2009 and lives in Watford. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2015

