

Childminder Report

Inspection date

15 September 2016

Previous inspection date

21 October 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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

- Since the last inspection, the childminder has taken positive steps to address the weaknesses raised and improve the outcomes for children. The childminder provides a wide selection of toys for children to independently choose from. She changes the toys throughout the week to ensure a variety is available, taking into account children's interests and favourite items.
- The childminder thoughtfully evaluates her practice. She implements changes to improve the experiences for children and to promote their independence. The childminder actively seeks out and includes the views of children and parents.
- The childminder has developed a good working knowledge about how to effectively use observations of children to plan for their ongoing learning.
- The childminder plans activities and tracks children's progress across all the areas of learning. She reviews progress to check if any areas need further attention.
- The childminder has formed strong partnerships with parents. She regularly reviews and discusses children's progress with them so they can support their learning at home. She shares information on children's progress with other settings and supports seeking additional help for children, when necessary.
- Children behave well and enjoy the attentive caring relationship with the childminder. They seek comfort from her and she is quick to provide cuddles, when appropriate.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children who prefer to learn outdoors are not always provided with opportunities to express their creativity.

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 who prefer to learn outdoors to express their creativity.

Inspection activities

- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and training, and suitability of all household members.
- The inspector viewed areas used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documents and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding procedure.
- The inspector observed and discussed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children when it was appropriate. The inspector read feedback given by a selection of parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Rebecca Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder carefully minimises any risks in her home and garden. She has completed first-aid training and receives regular updates to refresh her knowledge. She has continued her professional development and has reviewed her policies and practice to ensure that they follow current guidelines. The childminder has a sound understanding of how to identify any causes for concern in children's welfare and she regularly checks that she has the current referral contact details. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is aware of the importance of engaging in professional working relationships with others involved in the care and learning of children, if and when the need arises.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder plans activities for children to capture their interest and to help them achieve their next steps in learning. Children enjoy sensory play. For example, they have fun playing with trays of jelly and shaving foam. The childminder introduces pine cones, cotton reels and balls. She shows children different ways to play with the materials. Children copy the childminder, exploring the materials, dipping toys in and hunting for them in the foam. Children pass items to her, smiling at her as she passes them back. Children are happy and engaged in their play. She sits on the floor with children to play, using eye contact and encouragement. The childminder understands how to support children's language skills and their learning through play. She narrates as children play and uses simple questions and noises to help young children develop their communication skills. Children are actively involved in the planning of activities. For example, the childminder has created a photographic record of resources to help children make further choices. The childminder asks children what activities they would like to do inside and outside.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder encourages children to develop skills to help their independence. For example, she gives them time to find and put on their own shoes, supporting where necessary. She positions toys to encourage younger children to shuffle or crawl between them, helping to develop their physical skills. The childminder promotes the values of respect and tolerance. She has a wide range of resources to help children learn about diversity and challenge stereotypes. Children are taught the importance of healthy lifestyles, such as handwashing and healthy eating.

Outcomes for children are good

During their play children concentrate for long periods of time. This helps to develop their thinking skills. Children are confident and are making good progress from their starting points. The childminder ensures that children are prepared for the move on to school or the next stage in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY407562
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1044454
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	21 October 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in Chelmsford. She operates Monday to Thursday 7.30am to 6pm and Friday from 7.30am to 4.15pm all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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