

Childminder Report

Inspection date

14 September 2016

Previous inspection date

13 December 2013

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

- The childminder has taken positive steps to address the actions raised at the last inspection. For example, he has increased his knowledge about how to effectively use observations and assessment to support and extend children's learning. This information is shared with parents so that they are aware of their children's progress.
- The childminder has also developed his understanding about how to successfully use the progress check for children between the age of two and three years. He now has clear information about all children's abilities and provides suitable activities to help their development.
- Children enjoy playing with the varied range of resources the childminder provides. He plans enjoyable activities based on their interests and abilities. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children behave well and form warm and secure relationships with the childminder. They are happy and understand how to share and respect each other's feelings and ideas.
- The childminder reviews his provision to help him improve his practice. He identifies strengths and weaknesses and discusses with his co-childminder how they can continually improve practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder does not give children enough opportunities to express their own creative thoughts and ideas.
- The childminder has not fully considered how best to ensure that his professional development contributes towards raising the quality of the provision to the highest standard.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide children with even more opportunities to express their own creative thoughts and ideas
- secure further opportunities for professional development in order to raise the quality of the provision to an even higher standard.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children and the childminder playing together. The inspector spoke to children, the childminder and his co-childminder at appropriate times.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and the suitability of other adults living and working in the home.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including safeguarding policies and procedures and children's records.
- The inspector evaluated an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at thank you cards from parents and took account of their views expressed in these.

Inspector

Maura Pigram

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a secure understanding of how to deal with child protection concerns. He has continued to update and refresh his knowledge about safeguarding issues, including current legislation. The childminder knows how to identify and minimise risks to children at his home and on outings. This helps to contribute to maintaining children's safety. The childminder establishes positive and trusting partnerships with parents. They receive a welcome pack which contains a wealth of information, such as how to help children to be ready for school.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder plans activities that appeal to children, such as imaginative play and making items using creative materials. He plays alongside children and is very attentive to their needs. For example, children have fun in the playhouse as they pretend to buy and sell ice creams. The childminder encourages children to describe the different flavours that they have. This helps to support their early language skills. The childminder supports children's mathematical skills very effectively. For example, children take turns to spin a dial and have fun matching items to the correct number. He asks them how many items they need to match to the number so that they begin to use simple addition. The regular visits to music sessions help to build on children's confidence when they are in larger groups. During these outings they also learn about the world around them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy positive interactions from the attentive childminder and his co-childminder. There are good settling-in procedures in place to ensure that children are supported well when they first start to attend. The childminder routinely praises children during their play and routines. This helps to promote their self-esteem. Children's health, hygiene needs and understanding of safety are met efficiently. For example, during visits to animal parks children are reminded how to safely handle small animals and to wash their hands after this. The childminder encourages children to be independent. For example, they attend to their personal needs and pour their own drinks. Children sit at the family table for meals; the childminder encourages healthy eating and good manners are promoted.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are learning the key skills they need in preparation for moving on to school. They are showing an early interest in reading books and are helped to recall stories. Children play together well and show that they have good social skills. They use pencils and crayons to draw on paper. This helps to support children's small-muscle movements in preparation for the development of writing skills. Children learn to solve problems during construction play, such as building an airport. They learn to count and identify shapes during activities and daily routines.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408901
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1043596
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	13 December 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in Welwyn Garden City. He works with his wife, who is also a registered childminder. The childminder operates all year round from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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