

Childminder report

Inspection date	9 May 2019
Previous inspection date	14 May 2018

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The childminder has made significant improvements to her practice since the last inspection. She assesses children's progress accurately. She shares information appropriately with other settings children attend, to help her plan activities that meet children's learning needs. Children make good progress during their time with the childminder.
- Children show that they feel safe and comfortable in the childminder's affectionate care. They enjoy having a cuddle on her lap and readily seek reassurance from her at any time they feel unsure. Children receive regular praise and encouragement to promote their positive self-esteem.
- The childminder promotes positive relationships with parents. Parents report that they are very happy with the service the childminder provides. They praise the care that she gives, and they feel well informed about their children's development.
- The childminder supports children's creativity well. She encourages children to express themselves as they dance and use craft resources to make models and paintings.
- The childminder does not always explain to children why certain actions and behaviours may be unsuitable, in order to enable them to understand risks.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support children to gain a deeper understanding of why certain behaviours are not desirable.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children taking part in activities to assess the quality of teaching.
- The inspector reviewed written feedback from parents whose children are cared for by the childminder, in order to assess their views of her service.
- The childminder and inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder at appropriate times. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection in order to take their views about the setting into account.

Inspector

Naomi Brown

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder has worked hard to develop her practice since the last inspection, and she is committed to making further improvements. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder is clear about her role and responsibility to keep children safe. She knows how to identify signs that children may be at risk and how to report these to get help for children quickly. She works with an assistant and takes effective steps to ensure that this person supports children's needs. She holds regular discussions with her assistant about her practice and ensures she attends appropriate training. The childminder uses regular risk assessments and checks resources and spaces used by children to keep her home safe and suitable for their play.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides interesting activities that link to children's interests and promote their development across all areas of learning. For example, she has responded to children's particular interest in animals and linked small-world activities and stories about a range of animal characters to encourage children to explore the world around them. She helps children to link animal noises to the characters in a story, and to develop their physical skills, for instance, as they pick up and move farm animals in the toy farm. The childminder accurately identifies children's current stage of development and helps them build on their skills, for example, as they learn to use cutlery to feed themselves. Very young children use single words to label items and describe their actions. For example, they say 'aeroplane' as they hear one going overhead and put their arms out to make 'wings'. Children enjoy moving to music. They ask the childminder to play their favourite songs and enjoy joining in with the actions of the rhyme.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have many opportunities to be active, contributing to their good health. For instance, they walk to school and explore local parks and farms to have exercise and fresh air. The childminder encourages children to be independent as they feed themselves and wash their own hands before lunch. Even younger children help to get their own coats and shoes on, ready to go on a walk. Children are confident and kind to each other as the childminder encourages them to be gentle with their friends. They are respectful and polite. They make good relationships with the childminder and others, playing 'peepo' with their friends and joining in each other's play. Children play with a wide range of resources. They are supported to make choices and follow their own interests. For example, they explore how their shadows move along the road as they walk.

Outcomes for children are good

All children progress well from their starting points. They gain the skills they need to help them with the next stage in their learning, including their eventual move to school. They are developing strong speaking skills in order to share their feelings, thoughts and ideas. Children enjoy exploring new and familiar stories and chat about things they see in the pictures. Children develop their mathematical skills as they count from one to ten and compare the size of different sticks that they have gathered on outings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411373
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10084952
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	14 May 2018

The childminder registered in 2013 and lives in Harpenden. She operates her provision all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm from Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant.

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