

Childminder report

Inspection date	24 October 2018
Previous inspection date	11 March 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		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

The provision is good

- The childminder works closely in partnership with parents. She spends time settling children slowly into her setting to ensure they feel safe and secure.
- The childminder gathers useful information from parents about children's development when they first join her setting. This enables her to plan appropriate activities to meet their individual needs well.
- Children make good progress. Children learn to become independent and to do things for themselves. They learn to take turns and share with their friends. Children's behaviour is good. They enjoy the consistent praise that acknowledges their achievements.
- The childminder places a strong focus on developing children's communication and language skills. She talks to children constantly and asks them questions to encourage their learning.
- The childminder reflects on her practice well and the service she provides. She takes account of the views of parents and children when planning, to make changes and improvements to her setting.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not target professional development opportunities precisely enough to help raise the quality of her practice to an even higher level.
- The childminder does not make the most of all opportunities to encourage young children to learn about counting and use numbers during their play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- seek wider training opportunities to raise teaching quality to a higher level, to help children to reach the highest level of learning
- make the most of all opportunities to help children learn more about counting and numbers and use them in their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and spoke to children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as children's records, the childminder's suitability checks and qualifications, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents provided through written testimonials.

Inspector

Anahita Aderianwalla

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of whom to contact if she has any concerns about a child's welfare. She provides a safe environment and completes regular risk assessments to help keep children safe. The childminder monitors children's learning and development, and shares their achievements and goals with parents. In addition, she discusses ideas with the parents to help improve children's experiences and development. Parents speak highly of the childminder and comment on the homely environment that she creates for their children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides children with a good range of challenging and enjoyable activities. Children are eager and active learners. The childminder observes children and assesses their developmental needs well. Toddlers are imaginative and lead their own play successfully. They pretend to make cups of tea for the childminder. Children are learning to be creative. The childminder provides attractive resources for children to make craft items for their parents to celebrate special occasions. The childminder engages children and plans interesting activities that support their learning and development. For example, she encourages young children to use interactive toys and introduces new language, such as 'binoculars' and 'telescope', as children try to work out how to use them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides a range of nutritious snacks and children benefit from fresh air and daily exercise. She encourages children to recycle their rubbish and enhances their knowledge about being mindful of the environment. Children practise their physical skills in the garden and in the local parks and woodlands. The childminder takes children out into the local community and they learn about people who are different from themselves. She teaches children to respect other people and to socialise in groups. Children are happy and settle well into the routines of the day.

Outcomes for children are good

All children learn a good range of skills and show readiness for their next stage of learning and eventual move to school. Children are motivated to learn and are keen to share their ideas with the childminder. Young children gain skills for early writing and are encouraged to hold a magnetic pen to complete a range of puzzles. Children enjoy looking at the readily accessible books by themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY411745
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10070408
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	11 March 2015

The childminder registered in 2010 and lives in Stevenage. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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