

Childminder Report

Inspection date

10 August 2015

Previous inspection date

15 July 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 strives to provide childcare of the highest quality. She meticulously considers every aspect of the routine, activities and environment. She ensures that these are perfectly tailored to meet each child's needs and promote their development to the optimum. Consequently, children are positive and highly engaged.
- The childminder works exceptionally well with parents. She provides written information detailing activities that are specifically linked to children's current developmental needs. In this way, she successfully supports parents in extending their children's learning.
- The childminder uses exemplary teaching techniques. Her excellent practice is mirrored by her assistant and they prepare children exceptionally well for school. They confidently adapt activities and swiftly respond to children's interests. Consequently, children are exceptionally motivated and show a wonderful enthusiasm for learning.
- The childminder and her assistant have a comprehensive understanding of safeguarding procedures. Their practical policies thoroughly cover every aspect of children's welfare so that they consistently promote this.
- The well-qualified childminder is highly motivated. She completes training and uses any new knowledge to positive effect. She now offers children an even wider variety of activities that provide opportunities to explore materials and develop their creativity.
- The childminder's excellent reviewing of children's progress enables her to quickly address any weaker areas in their learning. She now offers children additional activities that support them in using their mathematical skills. For example, children enjoy measuring everyday objects and making a record of their findings.
- Children gain an excellent understanding of healthy lifestyles. They participate in an extended range of physical activities and look at the effects of this exercise. For example, they refer to a model skeleton, eagerly noting which bones and muscle groups they have been using.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- exploit the very good opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills when they are outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and garden.
- The inspector talked with the childminder, her assistant and the children present. She reviewed an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, planning documentation and evidence of the suitability of household members. She viewed the childminder's self-evaluation information and a range of other documentation, including the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents, as given in their written feedback to the childminder.

Inspector

Kelly Eyre

Inspection findings

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

The childminder takes the utmost care to ensure she fully understands each child. Her faultless attention to all areas means that she consistently offers children highly relevant support, enabling them to make excellent progress. Exceptionally well-planned activities support children in building on their learning over time. For example, they freeze toy bugs in water and observe how this melts. They play a bug game where they learn to recognise numbers and colours. They closely examine insects gathered on a bug hunt, researching the different species and habitats and making their own illustrations. Activities such as these, aid children in understanding how to carry out their own investigations. The childminder and her assistant support children in being involved in their community. Children develop their creativity as they plan and make scarecrows to show in a local exhibition. The childminder makes excellent use of resources as a way of supporting children to develop their language and communication skills. For example, children love throwing picture dice and enthusiastically make up stories that incorporate each illustration. Children have access to endless creative resources that support all areas of their learning. For example, they thread ribbons and paper through coloured mesh, eagerly noting the patterns and textures.

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

The childminder has developed highly practical paperwork that supports her in obtaining clear information from parents. She shares this with her assistant so that they both have a comprehensive understanding of children's needs. Consequently, children have close bonds with both adults. They are emotionally secure and demonstrate a highly positive approach when faced with challenges and new experiences. Therefore, they are exceptionally well prepared for the move to school. Children learn to consider the needs of others, cooperate and make decisions. They enthusiastically help plan activities and show pride in themselves as they review their assessment records and note how much progress they have made.

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

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and shares this knowledge with her assistant. They frequently review their policies, ensuring that these support them in meeting all requirements. The childminder uses the knowledge gained from her childcare qualification to help supervise her assistant. She is an excellent role model and this supports him exceptionally well in developing his practice and thereby enhancing children's daily care. The childminder now works very well in partnership with other childcare providers. She meets frequently with them and exchanges detailed information that enables her to fully understand children's needs and promote their development to the optimum. The childminder meticulously evaluates her work, accurately identifying areas she can improve even more. She has recognised the potential to offer children further opportunities to use their early writing skills in the outdoor environment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY417419
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	850065
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	15 July 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in Dunstable. She operates all year round from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. She works with an assistant on an occasional basis.

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