

Childminder Report

Inspection date	29 March 2016
Previous inspection date	2 August 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 works in partnership with parents. She gathers and uses information from them effectively. She has a good understanding of what children know and can do from the outset. She builds on this and helps the children to achieve well.
- The childminder promotes children's speaking and listening skills well. She offers them lots of opportunities to hear and use new words in an appropriate context. Children love to demonstrate to others the words they know as they describe the world around them.
- The childminder is successful in building on children's different family cultures and practices in her provision. She makes good use of resources and children's experiences to help them learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- The childminder has established effective relationships with the other settings that the children attend. She continuously makes sure that she knows what children are doing in school and nursery and builds on this with further relevant activities herself.
- The childminder successfully nurtures children's problem-solving skills. She offers experiences that enable children to consider how to tackle difficult tasks and to work through their ideas.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not make the most of every opportunity to build on children's literacy skills in their self-chosen play or in planned experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for children to develop their early reading and writing skills in their spontaneous play and during planned, adult-led activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector and the childminder reflected together on children's learning through play.
- The inspector, childminder and the children had discussions at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including policies, evidence of the suitability of the childminder, observations and assessments of children's progress, the safeguarding procedures and the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector looked at letters from parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The qualified childminder has a clear understanding of her priorities for improvement. This is gained through reflection on what she does well and feedback from children and their families. The childminder uses her evaluation of the service she provides to help her identify her training needs. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has done additional research and reading about the latest developments in safeguarding practice. She displays information to support parents in recognising potential causes for concern. The childminder has well-organised and up-to-date documentation. She uses this effectively to ensure the safe day-to-day running of her business.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder offers children a good range of interesting experiences each day. She takes the trouble to learn about the children in detail and recognises their preferred activities and ways of learning. The childminder makes sure there is plenty of fun and interest in what she plans for the children. They are eager to get involved and show that they want to learn. There is a good balance of child-led and planned adult-led experiences. This helps children to develop some of their own ideas and also helps them to follow specific instructions. The children show delight as they plant sunflower seeds and are excited as they activate the dried, compacted disc of compost with water. They explain the changes in the appearance and texture with some good descriptive words.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Outdoor learning features prominently in the childminder's provision for children. They have lots of opportunities for being physically active, both in the open air and indoors. The children thoroughly enjoy using balancing beams, fixing them together to make new and interesting layouts that test their balance and increasing coordination. The childminder makes good use of the local area to enrich children's experiences. Learning about the wider world of nature and different communities interests the children enormously. They love to talk about the places they have visited and what they have seen and done. The childminder uses consistent behaviour management strategies to help children to gain an understanding of what is expected of them.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are achieving well across each area of learning in relation to their starting points. The childminder teaches them valuable independence skills to ensure that they are capable and confident in managing their personal care needs. The children demonstrate that they are responsible and know what to do, such as washing their hands after playing outside and before they have something to eat. Children develop good numeracy skills. They count confidently, in sequence to 10 and beyond. They sort items by colour and size and consider other similarities when classifying objects as a group. They enjoy threading small beads, showing very good coordination and the dexterity they will need for writing. Children love books and are developing an interest in letters and sounds. They are prepared well for the next stage in their learning, such as school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY420694
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	852137
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	2 August 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2011 and lives in Welwyn Garden City. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for three-year-old children.

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