

Childminder Report

Inspection date

5 October 2017

Previous inspection date

29 October 2013

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 is committed to her role. She regularly completes training and shares good practice with her assistant during informal supervisions meetings. Recent training has increased their understanding of introducing children to an even wider range of healthy foods.
- Children demonstrate that they feel happy and secure, in the care of the calm-natured childminder and her assistant. For instance, they snuggle up to them as they become tired and are excited to play in the garden with the assistant.
- Outings within the local community help children to develop a good understanding of the world, and of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know that they must remain behind the safety barrier, as they visit the railway crossing to observe trains.
- The childminder teaches children to understand that print conveys meaning, to enhance their literacy development. For example, as she reads them their favourite stories, she helps them to understand the flow of reading, moving her finger under each word from left to right on the pages. Children are learning and developing their skills well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder's assistant does not always fully support children to understand the importance of taking turns with toys.
- The childminder has not yet explored further methods to support children who speak English as an additional language, to help them communicate their ideas and needs.
- The childminder does not always gather enough detailed information from parents about their child's prior learning, to help her support their development fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on the assistant's skills, to help children understand the importance of taking turns
- provide further opportunities for children who speak English as an additional language to express their ideas and needs
- gain more detailed information from parents about what their child knows and can already do when they first start.

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 held a number of discussions with the childminder and her assistant.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of the childminder's assistant, and persons living in the household.
- The inspector interacted and spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided, and reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistant have a secure understanding of possible signs that could indicate children are at risk of harm. They know how to take swift action, in order to protect children's welfare in the event of a child protection concern. The childminder regularly reflects on the service she provides, seeking the views of parents and children. This ensures that she acts effectively to address any areas for improvement. The childminder carefully reviews children's progress to swiftly address any gaps in their learning. Parents are complimentary about the service that the childminder provides. They appreciate how she regards their children as part of her own family. Successful partnerships with providers at other settings that children attend effectively support continuity in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are eager and motivated to participate in activities. The childminder's genuine praise and the equal attention she gives to children help them to persevere at challenging activities. Children work out through trial and error, how to join pieces of a toy train track together to create a circuit. The childminder places a strong emphasis on enhancing children's language skills. For instance, she speaks clearly and slowly as she introduces them to new words. Children develop good listening skills and positively benefit from group time. They confidently talk about their families and express their excitement about future events.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children demonstrate a sense of responsibility and respect for the environment. For instance, they work together to tidy away the toys they have finished playing with. They develop good relationships with each other. For example, they smile with delight and welcome other children as they arrive. Children develop a good awareness of a healthy diet. For instance, they enjoy participating in a varied range of cooking activities, and the childminder and her assistant frequently talk to children about the benefits of eating a balanced range of foods. Daily access to the childminder's garden and visits to local parks, help children to increase their physical skills, as they jump and climb on apparatus.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress in their learning given their starting points. They are independent individuals. Children put on their own outer clothing and clear away their plates when they have finished eating. They spontaneously use number names as they play, and work out simple mathematical problems, such as addition. Children gain the necessary skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY426165
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1065677
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 7
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	12
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	29 October 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 7am until 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant.

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