

Childminder Report

Inspection date

9 June 2016

Previous inspection date

10 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The well-qualified childminder has an astute understanding of how children learn and accurately assesses their development. This helps her to provide a range of highly stimulating experiences that meets children's individual needs and offers levels of challenge that inspire them to learn.
- The childminder is extremely experienced. She continually seeks additional knowledge and expertise. She proactively attends a variety of purposeful training courses. The childminder successfully implements knowledge gained to enhance children's experiences. This approach contributes extremely well to the high standards of care and education that children benefit from.
- The childminder's recruitment and induction arrangements for assistants are exceptionally detailed and help to ensure first-class quality care. She and her assistants work superbly well together. They are totally committed to developing the setting through highly robust self-evaluation that includes the views of parents and children.
- The childminder works in a commendable manner with other early years provisions that children attend. She pays meticulous attention to ensuring that she regularly shares comprehensive information with them about children's learning and development. This further supports children's excellent progress.
- The childminder works extremely closely with teachers in schools to ensure that transitions are smooth. For example, she arranges meetings with Reception teachers and seeks written feedback from them. This helps her to ascertain and review the success of the activities that prepare children for school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build further on the excellent opportunities provided for children to explore technology and find out how things work, challenging children's progress even more.

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 talked with the childminder, her assistants and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including policies, evidence of the suitability of household members and assistants, observation and assessment records, as well as the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents as provided in documentation and online.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation processes.
- The inspector looked at the childminder's recruitment, induction and performance monitoring procedures and records.

Inspector

Lynne Talbot

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has an extremely astute awareness of how to protect children. She and her assistants have an in-depth knowledge of child protection procedures and how to report concerns about children's welfare. The childminder's assistants work diligently alongside her. The childminder implements an insightful programme of performance management, which contributes significantly to the exceptionally strong quality of practice. Her assistants are deeply committed to their own professional development and attend a broad range of training courses. This helps the childminder to make sure that children's welfare is extremely well supported.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder skilfully uses every activity to broaden opportunities for learning. One such activity leads children through research, using a range of media to look at life cycles. She offers many related activities to advance children's knowledge and skills. For example, older children explore symmetry, while younger children investigate textures, as they create a butterfly. The childminder implements a wealth of ideas to promote a shared approach with parents towards children's care. Parents receive children's individual learning plans and their next steps for development, helping them to continue activities at home. They regularly share achievements made at home. This helps to extend children's learning considerably. The childminder has identified further ways to continue challenging children. She plans to offer even more-exciting activities to enable them to carry on finding out about how things work, extending their opportunities to use technology.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder embraces all opportunities to significantly broaden children's understanding of diversity beyond their immediate family. For example, children alternate confidently between English and Polish as they talk and sing. They discuss important celebrations observed around the world, including those observed by their own families, such as, Russian, Slovakian and Polish. The childminder provides extensive support to parents and children during settling-in periods. Children quickly form trusting relationships with her and her assistants. The childminder visits children at home, taking toys for them to bring to their first session with her. Children's health is a high priority as they delight in experiencing outdoor play and learning daily, building their physical strength and coordination. The childminder's home-cooked meals are nutritionally balanced. She is diligent in researching and meeting any specific dietary requirements.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make rapid progress given their starting points. The childminder's meticulous attention to their individual learning plans means that all children are supported to continue to make the best possible progress. They are exceptionally well prepared for school. Children eagerly work collaboratively and learn to compromise and negotiate with each other as they make decisions. Older children responsibly help the younger ones to wash their hands before lunch, helping to share excellent hygiene practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY426767
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	874494
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	9
Number of children on roll	12
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	10 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2010 and lives in Stevenage. She works with two assistants. The childminder operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. The childminder provides care for children who speak English as an additional language.

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