

Childminder report

Inspection date	14 February 2019
Previous inspection date	18 September 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

This provision is good

- The childminder implements clear policies and procedures and ensures her premises are secure. She assesses risks to minimise hazards in the play environments and reviews these to meet the needs of children who are attending. This helps the childminder to keep children safe.
- Children are happy, content and relaxed in the childminder's care. They benefit from her care over many years and this helps them develop warm and trusting relationships with her.
- Children are making good progress. The childminder helps them to learn about the world. For example, she plans activities based on countries children originate from. Children learn about similarities and differences in people, families and cultures.
- The childminder is aware when children need support to develop their social skills. She takes children to toddler groups to give them opportunities to mix with others. The childminder encourages children to engage in activities, and stays close by until children are confident to play independently.
- The childminder does not consistently encourage all parents to share with her what their children are learning at home, to promote further progress.
- The childminder has not fully developed practices for sharing information with other early years settings that children attend, to enhance continuity in children's experiences and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop ways to increase opportunities for parents to share information about what children are learning at home, to fully extend and promote children's learning
- strengthen information-sharing practices with other early years settings that children attend, to further promote continuity in children's learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector observed the childminder teaching children during a planned activity and discussed the learning that was taking place with her.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children during play and routine activities.
- The inspector discussed the progress children are making with the childminder and sampled a range of documents, including assessment records and the safeguarding policy.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents and discussed the childminder's reflections on her practice with her.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of the different types of abuse and knows how to report any concerns if she suspects a child is at risk of harm. The childminder evaluates her practice. She identifies ways of enhancing the care and learning she provides. For example, she has undertaken a training course on children's mathematical development. Following this, she has adapted her teaching skills, including by helping children to see and understand numbers and shapes in the environment. The childminder has regular contact with other childminders in the local area, which helps her to share ideas and discuss best practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder observes children as they play and uses this knowledge to plan further activities that build on children's skills and to support their overall good progress. She is aware of children's current interests and uses these well to motivate them to learn. For example, the childminder hides small toys in tents when children show an interest in hiding. She uses positional language as she asks children where they found the toys, such as 'under a chair' or 'next to a box'. The childminder gives children opportunities to work out how to make toys work independently. She talks about how she slowly counts to 10 to stop herself from stepping in too soon. The childminder says she has seen how this has helped children to develop their thinking skills and become proud of their own achievements.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder effectively supports children's good health. For example, she explains to them why they need to use warm water and soap to wash germs off their hands. Children help to prepare healthy snacks, including by chopping fruit, and they know where to find their drinks of water. The childminder provides children with regular opportunities for outdoor play. They practise their physical skills as they play in the garden and use the adjacent field when they need more space. The childminder builds generally good partnerships with parents. They state their children enjoy the outings she takes them on and their confidence and social skills are developing well.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress and have a positive attitude to learning. They show a keen interest in books and enjoy listening to stories. Children are confident to join in with familiar refrains and show a good understanding of how to get information from the pictures. Children spontaneously count, for example how many pieces of fruit they have at snack time. The childminder sensitively teaches them about subtraction, including by asking children how many they will have after they have eaten one piece. These activities help children to develop effective skills that they need to aid their future learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY442201
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063639
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	3 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Date of previous inspection	18 September 2015

The childminder registered in 2012 and lives in Letchworth Garden City. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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