

Childminder Report

Inspection date

7 July 2016

Previous inspection date

14 January 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 has a secure knowledge of how children learn and she provides a rich and varied programme of activities and play opportunities. Accurate observation, assessment and planning for individual children help to ensure that they continue to progress well in their learning and development.
- The childminder works effectively in partnership with others to provide continuity of care and an extension of learning experiences for those children attending other settings.
- The wonderfully resourced garden offers children an extensive range of opportunities to develop their communication and language skills. For example, the talking telephone tubes encourage children to hold conversations with the childminder and her assistant. Children also learn new words as they search for mini-beasts in-between rocks and logs.
- Children's behaviour is good. Both the childminder and her assistant are good role models, consistently offering praise, encouragement and support to children. They are calm and caring; their gentle attitude helps children to feel safe, secure and very well settled.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The initial information about children's learning that the childminder obtains from every parent is not sufficiently detailed to fully support her early identification of children's precise learning needs.
- Although the childminder uses self-evaluation to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the provision, she does not make the best use of it to target professional development opportunities aimed at raising her and her assistant's teaching skills even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the level of information obtained from parents to include further detail of children's development to plan even more precisely for their continued progress from an early stage
- develop self-evaluation to include undertaking opportunities for professional development that will help to enhance teaching skills to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation, evidence of the suitability of other members of the household and children's learning and development records.
- The inspector spoke to a grandparent and took account of the written views of parents.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding and child protection procedures. She is confident in her ability to act swiftly should she have concerns for the welfare of children in her care. Children are cared for in a very secure, organised and well-maintained home. Both the childminder and her assistant are alert to hazards and take measures to ensure children's safety at all times. The childminder uses ongoing observations and assessments effectively to help ensure there are no gaps in children's learning. This includes involving parents and other settings that children may attend. The childminder effectively monitors the practice of her assistant to identify some ways to professionally develop. The childminder is motivated to provide the best for children and she welcomes the views of parents and children to support her self-evaluation.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistant provide an exciting and stimulating learning environment that supports children's explorative and imagination skills. Children benefit from having good opportunities for learning both inside and outside. Resources available to the children are used very well to encourage counting, sorting and problem solving, which they approach with enjoyment and enthusiasm. The childminder and her assistant consistently talk to the children, commenting on what they are doing and asking questions to encourage their thinking and exploration. For example, they ask the children to describe the texture of shaving foam and discuss different quantities of shaving foam, using words, such as less and more. This allows the children to think and predict what they think and test out their ideas.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children have warm and close relationships with both the childminder and her assistant. They go to them both for reassurance and cuddles during their play. Children are independent at mealtimes and motivated to do things for themselves during personal care routines. Children are highly active and enjoy playing outdoors, which is good for their physical well-being. This helps them to develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. From a young age, children develop a 'can-do' attitude as they persevere in challenging tasks. The childminder provides a wide range of exciting trips and outings helping to develop children's social skills and understanding of the wider world.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They are confident and enthusiastic learners. Children develop good listening, understanding and speaking skills. For example, they ask questions and initiate conversations. Children count confidently in their play and are beginning to recognise different mathematic concepts, such as size and shape. They learn how to cooperate with others and develop skills and attitudes they need for the next stages in their learning including starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY446157
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1042551
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	12
Number of children on roll	6
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	14 January 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Basildon, Essex. She operates all year round from 7.45am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant.

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