

Childminder Report

Inspection date

22 February 2018

Previous inspection date

28 May 2014

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 establishes effective partnerships with parents. She shares a wealth of information with them through her online system and in daily conversations. Parents particularly appreciate the occasional videos she shares of their children's play and new skills they have learnt. They are extremely positive about the care she provides for their children.
- The childminder and her assistant provide many interesting opportunities that capture children's imaginations. For example, children enjoy playing with a model farm that they have thoughtfully set up. Children explore the textures of soil and hay and pretend to feed the animals. They all delight in the daily music session as they join in with singing.
- All children make good progress relative to their starting points.
- The childminder effectively supports children's physical well-being. She is passionate about providing many opportunities for children to explore and learn outside. Children enjoy visits to local country parks, play parks, and daily play in the garden.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder does not make the most of opportunities to help older children to become more deeply involved in their activities to help to extend their learning and deepen their thinking to a higher level.
- The childminder does not fully evaluate the quality of teaching and how it impacts on children's outcomes in order to raise practice to the highest levels.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus teaching on enhancing the level of challenge for the oldest children, to help them to make outstanding progress in their learning
- monitor further the impact of teaching on children's learning to help to raise the quality of practice to the highest levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and spoke with the childminder, the assistant and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation and spoke with the childminder about how she evaluates the effectiveness of her provision.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and she and the childminder jointly evaluated the effectiveness of the assistant's interactions with children.
- The inspector checked evidence of the training and suitability of the assistant and the childminder.
- The inspector considered the views of parents spoken to on the day and their written views.

Inspector

Victoria Weir

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder ensures her assistant is suitable and has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities. She provides her with regular safeguarding training. The childminder and assistant have a good understanding of child protection issues. They know how to report any such concerns. Risk assessments are effective in minimising risks to children. For example, they encourage children to climb play equipment under close supervision and take into consideration children's climbing abilities. The childminder supports her assistant to improve her knowledge and skills, such as when discussing how she may meet the needs of individual children. The childminder uses her network of other childminders and local authority advice to ensure she is up to date with the latest requirements and to develop her skills. She has improved opportunities for younger children to explore using their senses and updated her safeguarding policies to reflect local guidance. The childminder includes the views of parents in her self-evaluation and she makes well-planned improvements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistant are attentive as children play. They know children well and provide activities that are rooted in children's interests. They join in and comment on children's play continually. They quickly respond to younger children's short concentration spans to engage them well. For example, they introduce toys and resources to help to keep play going. They encourage younger children to explore a sand wheel as they build on their activity of filling and emptying containers. Older children experience daily opportunities to copy letters and numbers and develop their accuracy in drawing. Children enjoy the books the childminder reads to them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder and her assistant are very nurturing and attentive to children's emotional well-being. The childminder finds out about children's individual routines for sleep and eating and she continues these arrangements. The assistant and childminder are both gentle, consistent and clear in their expectations for children's behaviour. The behaviour management strategies they use effectively take into account children's abilities and level of understanding. The childminder ensures children practise hygienic care routines and she supports their independence well.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy and settled in this friendly and welcoming childminding setting. Younger children learn key skills to help secure their future learning. For example, they learn to use words, feed themselves and share toys and activities. Older children learn skills to help them to prepare for school. They listen well to each other, learn to read and write their name and read some numbers. They count and learn shapes. The childminder checks on children's progress to address any gaps in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY446376
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	1087416
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	26
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	28 May 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2013 and lives in the Abington Vale area of Northampton. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6.15pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The childminder regularly works alongside an assistant.

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