

Childminder report

Inspection date	18 December 2018
Previous inspection date	16 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Met	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		Not Applicable	

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children demonstrate a secure bond with the childminder. They smile with delight as they see her waiting for them outside of their classroom. The childminder is very attuned to children's emotional needs. She swiftly adapts her practice to ensure that children continue to feel secure and comforted as they become very tired from their day at school.
- The childminder develops strong relationships with parents to ensure they are fully informed about the experiences and activities their children participate in. There is an effective two-way flow of information to aid children's individual needs. Parents appreciate the 'warm home-from-home environment' that the childminder creates.
- The childminder provides children with a wide range of experiences based on their interests. Children enjoy woodland walks. They collect leaves to design collages and add various creative materials, such as glitter to create different effects.
- The childminder regularly reflects on the service she provides in partnership with the co-childminder. She actively seeks the views of parents and children. This helps to identify and address any areas for improvement effectively.
- The childminder does not have highly effective links with children's teachers to fully support children's continuity of care and experiences further.
- The childminder does not challenge children to do as much as possible for themselves to be highly independent individuals.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen partnerships with children's teachers to extend on children's interests and experiences
- offer children more opportunities that challenge them to do as much as possible for themselves to help them to be highly independent.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector accompanied the childminder on a walk to collect children from school.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided and discussed with the childminder how she reflects on the service she provides.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a secure understanding of possible signs that indicate that children may be at risk of harm. She knows how to take swift action to protect children's welfare in the event of a child protection concern. The childminder carries out robust risk assessments to help ensure that children remain safe in her care. Secure arrangements are in place to ensure that children are only collected by individuals who are permitted to do so. The childminder shares her policies and procedures with parents. This helps them to be fully informed about the service the childminder offers. The childminder focuses well on her role and targets her training according to the needs of children. For instance, she has recently enrolled on a life coaching qualification to support children's well-being effectively.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a good knowledge of children's individual interests and consistently incorporates these within her flexible planning and spontaneous opportunities. For instance, children wish to pretend to be a unicorn as they walk home from school. The childminder encourages children to think about how a unicorn may move and joins in with their suggestions. The childminder's bubbly personality supports children to be excited and consistently engaged in activities. She expresses a genuine interest in what children have to say. This motivates them to talk about special areas they have created at home and ask inquisitive questions about reindeers. The childminder ensures that children have access to a wide variety of resources. They dress up in costumes and use their vivid imagination to become a superhero. Children thoroughly enjoy making up their own stories and act them out with older children.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder creates a warm and welcoming environment for children. She displays children's artwork around her home and each child has their own personalised box to store their creations. This helps them to feel a real sense of belonging. Older children are positive role models for younger children. They behave well and demonstrate friendly relationships. For example, they welcome younger children to join in team games, such as pin the nose on the reindeer and table football. This also helps children to be patient and take turns. The childminder provides children with good opportunities to assess their own risks. For instance, they confidently help the childminder to decide when it is safe to cross the road and know when to stop as she permits them to run a little way ahead of her.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY468060
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10083396
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	5 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	17
Date of previous inspection	16 September 2014

The childminder registered in 2013 and lives in Hitchin. She works with a co-childminder. The childminder operates from 7.30am until 9am and 3pm until 6pm, Monday to Friday, during term time only.

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