

Inspection date	26 January 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Outstanding	1
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Outstanding	1
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Outstanding	1
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Teaching is excellent. The childminder uses highly effective strategies to engage children. She consistently asks open-ended questions during activities that encourage children to think for themselves and solve problems independently. She provides a wide range of stimulating and exciting activities that are linked to their next steps in learning. Consequently, children make excellent progress.
- The childminder promotes children's emotional well-being exceptionally well. She provides a warm and welcoming environment where spontaneous cuddles are regularly offered. Effective settling-in visits are organised according to the individual family needs. As a result, babies and young children settle quickly and develop extremely strong bonds and attachments.
- The childminder has an excellent relationship with parents. She ensures that they are fully informed of the progress their children are making and she supports them effectively in extending their children's learning at home. In addition to this, the childminder has very strong links with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The childminder demonstrates an excellent knowledge and understanding of how to protect the children in her care. She is aware of potential signs and symptoms of abuse and knows exactly how to report concerns. She completes regular child protection training to ensure that her knowledge of legislation is updated. As a result, the childminder promotes children's safety and well-being extremely well.
- Children's communication and language development is exceptional. The childminder encourages all children to express themselves from initial sounds to full conversations. She supports and listens carefully, repeating and introducing new words during their play. As a result, children are very confident to speak and make sounds and exceed expected levels of development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the already very good opportunities for children to explore equality and diversity by providing further toys and resources that promote positive images.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed an adult-led activity, free play activities and snack time. She talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector discussed monitoring and self-evaluation with the childminder.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the childminder in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress. She also viewed the children's learning profiles.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of household members. She viewed a range of other documentation including the childminder's training certificates and her written policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is outstanding

The childminder has an excellent knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She provides a superb variety of stimulating and enjoyable activities that are adapted to suit the individual needs of each child. For example, very young children demonstrate exceptional concentration and perseverance skills as they create their own shake and sound bottle. The childminder supports and encourages them to place a range of resources into the small opening of a bottle and then listen to the various sounds they make. As children do this, the childminder congratulates them by clapping and cheering. This clearly promotes their personal, social and emotional development as they smile and kick their legs happily. Older children are equally praised for the skills they demonstrate as they create their instruments independently using a wider range of resources. The childminder skilfully uses children's starting points and observations to identify their next steps and incorporates these into future plans. As a result, children make excellent progress and are exceptionally well prepared for school.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is outstanding

Children make very strong bonds and attachments in this extremely warm and welcoming environment. Initial visits are planned effectively to encourage children to settle very quickly. The childminder encourages children to self-select resources, and make choices about their play. She accepts that children's good understanding of equality and diversity would be encouraged further by providing a more extensive range of toys and resources that promote positive images. Children's emotional well-being is effectively supported and their behaviour is exemplary. Opportunities for them to develop their physical skills are excellent. They are skilfully encouraged to join in with a range of opportunities to explore resources independently in the home and well-equipped garden. Children learn about developing healthy lifestyles as they take part in daily routines and their personal safety is promoted as they are encouraged to take safe risks, such as when using static equipment at the park. Partnerships with parents are exemplary. The childminder shares children's learning journeys on a regular basis and parents speak very highly of the childminder. Consequently, children benefit from this consistent approach to their learning.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding

Extremely effective safeguarding arrangements mean that children's safety is a priority. The childminder is fully aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a child protection concern. She monitors her own practice excellently through regular discussions and feedback from parents, along with a daily evaluation of the activities children take part in. This means that she can effectively change her practice quickly and maintain a continually improving setting. The childminder seeks ongoing training opportunities to explore and enhance her own progress. She works alongside other settings where children attend, to extend their learning and this impacts positively on the progress they are making.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY461901
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	939724
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2014 and lives in Woolmer Green, which is a village close to Knebworth. She operates all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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