

Childminder Report

Inspection date

5 May 2015

Previous inspection date

1 March 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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

- The well-qualified childminder demonstrates an excellent use of observations and incorporates children's next steps in learning into future planning. She identifies children's interests and integrates these into a range of activities, with clear direction for extending children's learning. As a result, children make excellent progress and acquire the skills they need for school.
- Teaching is outstanding. The childminder promotes children's independence exceptionally well. Children skilfully cut and prepare their own snack on a regular basis. Additionally, they learn to dress and undress, independently and confidently, as they prepare for outside play.
- Children have daily opportunities for fresh air in the childminder's garden. They discover the feel of different textures, as they explore the sand pit and soil area. They plant vegetable seeds and watch them grow while learning to take care of them before eating them. Consequently, children learn about lifecycles extremely well.
- Arrangements for safeguarding children are outstanding. The childminder has a very strong understanding of how to protect the children in her care. She attends regular training and displays clear guidance to ensure that parents and visitors are also aware of the procedures to follow. Furthermore, she is extremely confident to identify and report signs and symptoms of abuse.
- The childminder has an excellent relationship with all parents. She consistently promotes superb opportunities for them to be involved in their children's learning. Furthermore, parents are fully encouraged to share children's progress and achievements from home and they speak very highly of the childminder.
- The childminder consistently evaluates her setting, and takes into consideration the views of others, to promote continuous improvement. She creates ongoing action plans to assist her in encouraging children to excel in their learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the already very good opportunities for children to enjoy the outside area, for example, by providing a choosing book displaying the resources available to them outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed children's progress and achievements with the childminder. She also viewed children's learning profiles, daily diaries, planning information and action plans.
- The inspector discussed how the childminder reviewed and evaluated her setting to seek continuous improvement. She reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation and took into account the views of current parents through written references provided at the inspection.
- The inspector observed inside and outside play, meal time routines and an adult-led activity in the childminder's home. She talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder's family members, and a range of other documentation, including the childminder's training certificates.

Inspector

Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

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

Children spend their time purposefully in this stimulating environment. The childminder has an excellent knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Using guidance the childminder assesses where children are in their learning. Her superb focus on children's progress means that she can provide opportunities that consistently maximise their learning. Children have excellent opportunities to make choices about their play, inside, and the childminder encourages their learning exceptionally well. For example, as young children explore and learn about colours the childminder extends the activity to include matching, grouping and sorting colours, numbers and shapes. Furthermore, when children complete a jigsaw with ease, the childminder challenges them further by providing others which are more difficult. Consequently, the childminder promotes children's learning at every opportunity. Children are very independent and the childminder encourages this by giving them time to complete tasks. They thrive as they cut their own cheese and plant their own cress seeds. As a result, children are making rapid progress in their learning and development. The childminder acknowledges that children are less able to make informed choices about what they want to play with when outdoors. This is because they do not know what resources are available for them.

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

The childminder promotes children's emotional well-being and they form very close bonds and attachments with the childminder and their peers. The childminder is an excellent role model and children display exemplary behaviour as they are very kind to each other and naturally take turns during activities. Children's independence and self-esteem are strongly promoted because the childminder uses opportunities, such as good sharing, to highlight their positive behaviour. As a result, children are confident and motivated to learn. Children develop a better understanding of healthy living as they grow their own fruit and vegetables with the childminder. Clearly displayed posters and pictures extend this understanding further as children follow excellent hygiene routines.

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

The childminder works extremely closely with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage to ensure that children benefit from a consistent approach to their learning and development. She extends children's learning incredibly well and follows the lead of professionals, such as speech and language therapists, to support children even further. The childminder shares children's learning profiles with parents to ensure that they are consistently aware of the excellent progress their children are making. She checks her own practice exceptionally well. For example, she evaluates her teaching, and the activities she provides, on a daily basis to ensure that she provides a first-class service. She attends regular training and constantly researches new opportunities to promote continuous improvement. This has a very positive impact on children's progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY359632
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	863604
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	1 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2008. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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