

Childminder Report

Inspection date

9 June 2015

Previous inspection date

2 June 2009

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 childminder has established highly effective processes for assessing, tracking and planning for children's progress in partnership with parents and the nurseries that children attend. As a result, children receive the highest levels of consistent support between the settings.
- The childminder safeguards children's welfare exceptionally well. The childminder is highly secure in her knowledge and understanding of the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child's welfare. She carries out regular risk assessments that very effectively reduce hazards and keep children safe on outings.
- The childminder is particularly skilled and effective in recognising possible gaps in achievement and targeting these to ensure children are prepared well for school.
- The childminder encourages children's creativity exceptionally well through music and art activities. She has not, however, fully explored the possibilities of using art and music to encourage children to express their feelings and emotions.
- The childminder plans amazing experiences to support children's understanding of the world. For example, children observe landmarks, such as Big Ben from a river boat and enjoy camping for the day in the childminder's caravan.
- The childminder lays firm foundations for children to adopt healthy and active lifestyles. For example, children enjoy tree climbing, den making and growing fruit and vegetables. The childminder gives parents lots of ideas for healthy lunch boxes.
- The childminder has an exceptionally strong commitment to driving improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on existing excellent teaching practice by exploring ways of combining music and art to further encourage children's self-expression.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play and learning indoors and in the garden, and involved the childminder in this process.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's practice with her and the impact of her teaching methods.
- The inspector looked at children's progress records and other documentation relating to safeguarding and children's health and well-being.
- The inspector sought and took account of parents' views.

Inspector

Amanda Tyson

Inspection findings

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

Children make outstanding progress in their learning and development and are extremely well prepared for school. The childminder is astutely aware of children's capabilities and learning needs, and plans exceptionally well to support their individual progress. For example, she purchased a digital pen to help children develop their writing skills and their understanding that print reads from left to right. Once children are able to recognise flat shapes the childminder introduces three-dimensional shapes, such as a cube, cylinder and pyramid. The childminder asks children questions and makes comments that encourage children to develop their ideas. For example, they make up their own elaborate stories. Children have great fun making mud dinners in the garden and building different types of structures and dens. They show a strong sense of pride in their achievements. They were delightfully enthusiastic about showing the inspector their learning journey records. Their comments included, 'This is me when we went to the lavender fields', 'I climbed a big, tall tree,' and 'This is my writing'.

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

Children quickly form strong attachments to the childminder. They respond exceptionally well to her kind, but firm, boundaries for behaviour which she fully agrees with parents. Toddlers endearingly praise older children when they notice them doing something clever. Children develop excellent social skills and confidently and enthusiastically sing solo. They manage their own toileting, dress themselves competently and help themselves to water from dispensers. As a result, children are well prepared for starting school. Children enjoy talking about healthy food, for instance, as they help to tell the story about a hungry caterpillar. The childminder works closely with parents to develop children's understanding of safety, such as stranger danger and how to behave when using public transport.

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

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage is excellent. Since the last inspection she has achieved a qualification at Level 3 in early years childcare and education, and attended numerous training courses and conferences. She makes excellent use of what she learns from these to update her knowledge and skills. For example, her planning now takes full consideration of the repeated patterns in children's play and provides a wider and more in-depth range of activities. Parents hold the childminder in exceptional regard. They say she maintains high levels of communication with them and helps them understand about their children's development so they can provide continuous support at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	138075
Local authority	Merton
Inspection number	841294
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	2 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1980. She lives in Morden, which is in the London borough of Merton. The childminder has qualification at Level 3 in early years. She works Monday to Friday throughout the year.

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