

Childminder Report

Inspection date

24 August 2015

Previous inspection date

7 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 quality of teaching is of an extremely high standard. The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. This helps children engage in an extensive range of inspirational and stimulating activities matched to their individual interests and capabilities.
- The childminder frequently plans trips and excursions to places of interest. This allows children to experience the wider world and to develop their social, physical and communication skills extremely well.
- Children are highly independent and show high levels of self-confidence. This is because the childminder effectively teaches them how to manage routine tasks by themselves.
- The childminder has excellent partnerships with parents. Her settling-in visits allow children time to adjust to the new environment and build a relationship with her. She gathers detailed information about children's achievements at home to help her plan for their future development.
- Children's safety and safeguarding are central to the childminder's practice. She is very knowledgeable about child protection procedures and updates her safeguarding and first-aid training on a frequent basis. Thorough risk assessments are carried out to check that the premises are safe and the childminder remains vigilant at all times to promote children's safety.
- The childminder is highly committed to developing the quality of her setting and children's learning. Her pursuit of excellence drives continual improvement.
- The childminder works extremely closely with other providers, schools and professionals. This ensures appropriate support is put in place quickly and children's needs are met superbly.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance and maintain the already excellent teaching strategies by completing further professional development opportunities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environments and looked around the ground floor of the premises.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder about the children's progress and achievements.
- The inspector viewed the children's development records.
- The inspector saw evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and her family, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from their responses to surveys organised by the childminder.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

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

Children have excellent attitudes to their learning and swiftly develop the skills they need in readiness for starting school. They engage in all activities with huge enthusiasm and are eager to learn all they can. The childminder expertly includes children's views and interests when deciding on activities to organise. For example, when children show an interest in gardening, the childminder expands the range of activities and resources to extend their developing knowledge. The childminder skilfully involves herself in children's play to ensure they quickly develop the confidence to think things through and solve problems, when counting, calculating and recognising shapes. Children's communication and language skills are successfully fostered through the childminder's sharply focused questions and narration throughout activities. She waits patiently for an answer while children consider what she is asking. Parents are kept extremely well informed about their children's progress and gain ideas about how to support learning at home. They are frequently invited to contribute to children's assessments and become more involved by contributing additional items to extend activities.

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

Children have excellent relationships with the childminder and her family. Their emotional well-being is extremely well met through the strong attachments they have made. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between allowing children freedom and setting safe limits. She effectively promotes children's awareness of safety and provides extremely clear messages about acceptable behaviour. Children play harmoniously as they are encouraged to think about how their actions affect others, which helps them learn right from wrong. Exemplary standards of cleanliness are maintained and children demonstrate a very good understanding of effective hygiene routines and healthy eating. Children particularly enjoy preparing fresh fruit as part of their daily diet. The childminder works closely with parents to provide them with ideas for a healthy lunchbox. Children are highly confident in managing their personal care needs and the childminder is always nearby to support younger children with toilet training.

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

The childminder is dedicated to ensuring that children in her care thrive and achieve to their full potential. All aspects of safeguarding and welfare are meticulously considered so children are kept safe, secure and free from harm. Children's progress is precisely tracked, focusing on each area of learning and takes into account the characteristics of effective learning. The childminder is extremely enthusiastic about her role and uses self-evaluation to reflect on her daily practice. She is proactive in setting targets to drive improvement and invites parents and children to contribute to the evaluation of her practice. The childminder is well qualified and regularly meets with other childminders and attends cluster meetings to extend her childcare knowledge. Given her level of expertise, she now recognises the need to widen the source of training to further develop her practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	203229
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	865188
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	7 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Wickford, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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