

Childminder Report

Inspection date

11 September 2015

Previous inspection date

5 August 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The quality of teaching is excellent. The childminder is immensely knowledgeable about how children learn and develop. She provides them with an extremely good variety of challenging learning experiences. As a result, all children make consistently excellent progress, relative to their starting points.
- The childminder's excellent support for disabled children and those with special educational needs ensures any gaps in learning between different groups close rapidly. Extremely strong partnerships working with other professionals and parents result in immensely effective plans to help children make the best possible progress.
- Children are extremely happy and confident, and show high self-esteem. Excellent settling-in procedures result in children quickly developing very warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder. Children demonstrate through their interactions with each other and with adults that they feel extremely safe and emotionally secure in the setting.
- The childminder strives to achieve and sustain the highest standards in all aspects of her practice. She demonstrates this in the excellent professional support and supervision she gives her childminding assistants. The childminder has promoted an effective culture of reflective practice, resulting in a very strong focus on continuous improvement.
- Rigorous self-evaluation results in prioritising improvements that have the most benefit to children. The childminder uses a variety of methods, including training, very well to develop her skills. For example, following training on outdoor learning and the natural world, the childminder extended the sensory garden and installed a mud kitchen, which children enjoy immensely.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend older children's understanding of the different ways they can use information and communication technology to develop their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder's interactions with children during activities, indoors and outside.
- The inspector and the childminder jointly observed an assistant engaged in an activity with children.
- The inspector spoke to parents to gain their views of the setting.
- The inspector talked to the childminder about how children's learning and development is monitored.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, including recent changes. She implements these extremely well. Safeguarding is highly effective. The childminder is very clear about procedures relating to safeguarding matters. She ensures her assistants complete safeguarding training and have an extremely thorough understanding of the procedures. This ensures they all know what to do to protect children from harm and keep them safe.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder monitors children's progress extremely well. She includes parents in helping to identify their children's starting points. This very successfully involves them in their children's learning from the outset and the excellent communication with parents means children are thoroughly interested and engaged. The childminder's observations and assessments are extremely precise and she uses these most effectively in planning for individual progress. Children communicate very confidently, responding well to questions and discussions that encourage them to reflect on what they know, and relate this to current experiences. For example, the childminder used a birthday celebration most effectively to encourage children to think about 'when I was two, now I am three'. She encouraged them to talk about how they had changed, which stimulated good discussions among the group. Children use a variety of tools and everyday technology to help them to understand how things work. However, the childminder does not always fully extend the use of technology with the older children to help develop their learning further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder has very high expectations of children. She uses daily routines exceptionally well to encourage them to take responsibility and develop independence. For example, all children helped prepare food, confidently managing knives and apple corers safely. They showed very good hygiene awareness. For instance, although they washed their hands before handling food, if they touched their mouths they immediately stopped what they were doing and washed them again. Children recognise that they all have different abilities and they adapt their play without prompting to include disabled friends. This reflects the childminder's extremely strong commitment to inclusive practice and shows that children learn to respect and care for each other.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children develop exceptional confidence, communication skills and independence, which prepare them very well for the next stage in their learning, including moving on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY310508
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	827172
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	5 August 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2005. She lives in Exmouth, Devon. She works with another childminder and the setting is known as Drakes Montessori Childcare. The childminders work with childminding assistants. The setting is open all year. Opening hours are Monday to Thursday from 8am to 6pm, and Friday from 8am to 3pm. The childminder's practice follows the Montessori philosophy.

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