

Childminder Report

Inspection date

1 October 2015

Previous inspection date

21 April 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The experienced childminder has a good knowledge of how children learn. She accurately assesses children's progress and effectively plans for the next steps in their learning. Children are acquiring the necessary skills for their move on to the next stage of their education.
- The childminder uses training, reading and discussions of good practice with other childminders to extend her knowledge and improve her teaching.
- The childminder has established exceptionally good working relationships with other providers. This means she is able to share information and ensure that children receive continuity in their care and learning.
- Parents become fully involved in their child's learning. The childminder offers them ideas and suggestions of how they can support their children at home. She regularly shares all documentation with parents, informing them of the progress their children make.
- Children are safe because the childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding and child protection. She fully understands what process she would follow should she have concerns about a child in her care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not make the best use of information gained from parents about what children already know and can do when they first join the setting. She does not always use this information to best effect to help her establish starting points for children's learning.
- The childminder occasionally misses opportunities to fully extend children's thinking skills and offer further challenge to build on their good progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of the information about what children already know and can do when they first join the setting so starting points for future learning are more effectively established
- challenge children fully to extend their thinking skills as far as possible.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas used by children.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of the childminder and members of her household.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents expressed in written testimonials.

Inspector

Sharon Alleary

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder regularly reflects on her practice. She seeks the views of children and parents through regular discussions and questionnaires and uses this feedback to establish a clear plan for improvement. Written statements from parents show how much they recognise and appreciate the contribution the childminder makes to their child's happiness and learning. Children's written comments include, 'it's like a home from home'.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are active and busy learners; they clearly enjoy their time with the childminder and are confident and self-assured. The childminder skilfully involves herself in children's play at appropriate times. Equally, she understands when to leave children alone to explore and learn skills through self-initiated play. The childminder is creative in the way she tells stories. She captures the children's attention with puppets and they join in with rhyming sentences. This enhances children's growing listening and attention skills and nurtures a love of books. The childminder regularly takes children to community groups and outings outside of the home. This contributes to their understanding of people beyond their immediate family and the setting. The childminder enhances children's understanding of nature. For example, when children discover conkers on the school run, the childminder teaches them that this fruit comes from a horse chestnut tree. Children recall this fact to share with the inspector.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder is kind and caring towards the children. They develop strong emotional attachments to her, which supports their emotional well-being. The childminder is a good role model. She teaches children to share and take turns. She gives clear guidance about expected behaviour so that children learn to behave well and display good manners. The childminder encourages the children to be independent and to develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. Children go to the toilet with minimal support and wash their hands afterwards. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and meals that are freshly prepared and include plenty of fruit and vegetables. The childminder fully meets children's dietary needs as she discusses any individual requirements with their parents. The childminder supports physical skills well. Children have daily opportunities to play in the garden and to walk to school and around the community. This promotes their good health and well-being.

Outcomes for children are good

The childminder regularly checks children's progress to maintain a good overview of their development. All children are making good progress in their learning from their starting points. Children confidently express their needs and wishes and build early friendships developing their personal, social and emotional skills well.

Setting details

Unique reference number	119428
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	874731
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	21 April 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1986 and lives in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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