

Childminder Report

Inspection date	12 October 2015
Previous inspection date	13 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 quality of teaching is good. The childminder is qualified, experienced and knowledgeable about how children learn. She accurately assesses children's development and where they need support, in order to help them move forward in their learning.
- The childminder promotes children's communication and language skills very well. She sensitively communicates with them, talks about what she is doing and engages them in discussions. Children listen attentively and take turns in conversation. They recall what they have been doing over the weekend or that morning and children reciprocate asking the childminder, 'How was your morning?'
- The childminder develops a strong bond with children. She takes the time to get to know them, effectively supporting them to settle and to feel welcomed and valued.
- The childminder positively involves children in the daily routines of the provision. She encourages children to try to do things by themselves before offering assistance. They independently participate in self-care practices which promote their good health and hygiene, prior to starting school. They are happy, and their self-confidence and personal development is fostered well.
- The childminder is well motivated in her professional development. She has attended mandatory and additional training, in order to keep her knowledge and understanding up to date and to improve outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always carefully plan the set up of her activities, to fully develop children's creativity and stimulate their imagination, during times of free play.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the planned set up of resources to support children's freely chosen play, in order to encourage children to further develop their creativity and imagination.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas used for childminding. She talked to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection and observed a variety of activities.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder, as well as a selection of policies and procedures, including safeguarding. She discussed risk assessments and the childminder's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder. She discussed children's learning and development, sampled their records and looked at the planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day and by reading a number of their comments on letters obtained by the childminder.

Inspector

Rachel Howell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. Children are protected from harm as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role and duty to report any concerns. The childminder has a good understanding of her legal responsibilities. She is proactive to ensure her policies and procedures are implemented into her practice and she regularly revises these to reflect current legislation. She reflects on her own practice and has identified some areas she wants to develop further. This means that the overall quality of the provision is consistently increasing.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children readily join in games and activities with the childminder. They listen carefully to the childminder's explanations of the bee game. Her interest and enthusiasm to join in engages children very well and ensures they have fun. Children carefully pull out sticks and excitedly watch bees fall out, they then patiently wait for their next turn. At the end of the game the childminder supports children to count how many bees they have altogether. Children's literacy develops effectively as the childminder reads stories with them regularly. She develops older children's knowledge of sounds by encouraging them to recognise the individual letters that are familiar to them. She helps sustain younger children's interest in books by talking about the pictures that they see and encouraging children to name items. Adult-led activities support children's creativity well. Children love to explore the singing box with the childminder. They show their knowledge of many songs and happily sing along. They enjoy experimenting with musical instruments. They begin to explore rhythm and listen attentively as they are encouraged to create soft and loud sounds. However, children have fewer opportunities to independently access materials to support their creativity during times of free play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children settle easily into the childminder's care as she is calm, gentle and caring. The friendly, homely environment helps children feel relaxed, safe and welcome. The childminder gains all of the necessary information from parents as children start, to ensure children's specific needs are carefully considered. Children show that they are happy and confident, and approach the childminder with ease to ask questions or tell her what they need or want.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their development and are well prepared for their move on to school. The childminder ensures that she works effectively with parents to meet children's individual needs. She shares information on children's progress, provides advice and support, and regularly updates her displays. She also works hard to develop links with other providers of settings that children attend, in order to ensure continuity in children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221435
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	854576
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	13 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1997 and lives in Wellingborough. She operates all year round from 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. The childminder provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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