

# Childminder Report

**Inspection date**

17 November 2015

Previous inspection date

5 May 2009

<b>The quality and standards of the early years provision</b>	<b>This inspection:</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>1</b>
	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 outstanding. The childminder has a superb understanding of how children learn. She precisely manages the balance between supporting and extending play, allowing children to develop their own ideas to promote learning. They enjoy highly stimulating activities that the childminder meticulously plans to ensure that children of all ages and abilities are included.
- Children actively participate in the creation and upkeep of 'Little Eden'. This large allotment within a community garden project provides children with excellent opportunities to be physically active. Exciting activities inspire children to be highly capable and expert problem solvers as they learn about the environment and growth.
- The inspirational and qualified childminder works very closely with a network of other childminders. She welcomes them into her home to share her wealth of expertise, helping them to raise the quality of their practice and outcomes for other children.
- The childminder forms exceptionally warm and caring bonds with the children. She displays a heart-warming love and respect for them, which they all reciprocate eagerly. Children show that they feel very secure and demonstrate high levels of confidence.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. The childminder involves them in every part of her setting and their children's learning. Parents actively contribute their ideas for their children's future progress. They appreciate how the childminder embraces children's bilingualism and stretches their thirst for learning.
- The childminder uses self-evaluation as a powerful tool for improvement. She is relentless in her pursuit of excellence and drives forward with a strong commitment to achieving and maintaining the highest quality of care for children.

## What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the excellent opportunities for children to explore differences among families, in order to expand their understanding of diversity even further.

### Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and jointly discussed this with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, a selection of policies, safety procedures and required documentation.
- The inspector looked at a selection of photograph albums detailing the creation and range of activities children participate in at their allotment area.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder and adults who live at the premises that are over 16 years of age.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation form and a selection of audits she completes of her service.

### Inspector

Lorraine Pike

## Inspection findings

### Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The dynamic and experienced childminder has an exemplary understanding of her responsibilities in meeting and implementing the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and other government legislation. The arrangements for safeguarding are highly effective. For example, the childminder has an excellent understanding of how to protect children when they use electronic devices. She thoroughly reviews the educational programmes and places the upmost importance on continuing to improve her knowledge. As a result of recent training, she has an in-depth knowledge of providing further stimulating outdoor learning opportunities. Therefore, she fully considers these benefits within children's individual plans, especially during their visits to 'Little Eden'.

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Children of a young age have a superb level of concentration as they complete challenging activities. The childminder makes the most of every opportunity to significantly enhance children's learning. Her excellent attention to babies' attempts at talking helps them to learn the pattern of conversation. Children very quickly learn to use sign language alongside their spoken words. Older children use complex sentences to clearly express their thoughts and retell stories from home. Babies join in with action songs and learn the names for different parts of their bodies. Older children feed the childminder's chickens and spontaneously count the eggs they collect. Children gain an excellent understanding of diversity, tasting traditional foods from different countries and learning about different ways of life.

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children are very happy and relaxed in this welcoming home, creating a vibrant and happy atmosphere for all. They help themselves to a wonderful selection of high-quality toys and activities, many of which are made from natural materials. Children settle exceptionally quickly. The childminder visits children in their own homes to begin building secure relationships from a very early stage. Parents also visit the childminder's home and are invited to join in with activities. Children behave exceptionally well and demonstrate kind and secure relationships with each other. Babies wake happily from their sleep and smile as they acknowledge the childminder. Older children demonstrate a real sense of responsibility and respect for their environment. Children show an excellent level of independence for their young age. They tidy away activities without being asked and lay the table for lunch. The childminder provides children with a rich and varied range of home-cooked healthy and nutritious meals, mainly using organic ingredients.

### Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children made rapid progress in relation to their starting points in readiness for the move on to school. The childminder's infectious sense of fun captures children's attention during activities, which highly motivates them to learn. They are extremely well prepared for the next stage in their learning.

## Setting details

<b>Unique reference number</b>	404213
<b>Local authority</b>	Hertfordshire
<b>Inspection number</b>	847912
<b>Type of provision</b>	Childminder
<b>Day care type</b>	Childminder
<b>Age range of children</b>	1 - 2
<b>Total number of places</b>	6
<b>Number of children on roll</b>	3
<b>Name of provider</b>	
<b>Date of previous inspection</b>	5 May 2009
<b>Telephone number</b>	

The childminder was registered in 2001 and lives in St Albans. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'Complaints procedure: raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted). If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk).

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/), write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

This publication is available at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120354).

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our website for news, information and updates at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/user](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/user).

Piccadilly Gate  
Store St  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234  
Textphone: 0161 618 8524  
E: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
W: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted)

© Crown copyright 2015

