

Childminder Report

Inspection date

26 November 2015

Previous inspection date

22 April 2010

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 well-qualified childminder has an astute understanding of how children learn and accurately assesses their development. This helps her to provide a range of highly stimulating experiences that meet children's individual needs. All children make rapid progress in their learning and are exceptionally well prepared for school.
- The childminder and her assistant form exceptionally supportive, caring bonds with the children. Children show that they feel very secure and demonstrate high levels of confidence. For example, children readily take over roles, such as leading group activities themselves. They help to prepare meals, carrying the platters of food to the table together.
- Leadership is extremely strong. The childminder and her assistant's commitment to continuous improvement is evident. A robust and conscientious review of every session is completed. The self-evaluation consistently leads to rapid improvement and takes full account of the assistant's, children's and parents' views.
- The childminder works in a commendable manner as a strong partner for the other early years provision that children attend. She provides wraparound care to complement children's first term in a local nursery. She pays meticulous attention to ensuring that she shares comprehensive information about children's learning and development. This further supports children's excellent development.
- Children thrive in the stimulating setting where they are eager to try challenging experiences. They freely explore materials and make independent choices from a vast range of resources. They are entirely engaged and lead their own learning from an extremely young age.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore further methods and ideas to engage parents even more in their children's early mathematical development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector talked with the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies, evidence of the suitability of household members, observation and assessment documentation and the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and jointly evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents as provided in documentation.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's methods of self-evaluation.

Inspector

Lynne Talbot

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistant have an extremely astute awareness of how to protect children. They both complete regular training in safeguarding, including child exploitation and online safety. The experienced and well-qualified childminder continuously broadens her already excellent knowledge through training opportunities. For example, she recently completed programmes that help her to focus support for children's emotional well-being. She has undertaken training to assist her even further in working with parents when raising developmental concerns regarding children. The childminder has very high expectations of her own and her assistant's practice. She provides positive supervision, reviews and feedback to strengthen her assistant's knowledge even further. They set aside days for training together, such as watching published programmes regarding communication and language.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The exceptionally high quality of teaching contributes to the excellent progress that children make in their learning. The childminder provides activities that stimulate children and significantly enhance their eagerness to learn. For example, children examine paintings produced by famous artists many years ago before creating their own version of the scene they have viewed. Their communication and language skills develop rapidly. They demonstrate superb confidence as they identify letters and sounds, with some children able to spell simple words. The childminder ensures that practical activities maximise the opportunities for mathematical development. For example, children enjoy examining length as they measure how far they can jump. They delight in measuring one another's heights. The childminder is currently exploring further ways to share resources and ideas for activities at home with parents. She is considering ways to help them be even more engaged in their children's rapidly developing mathematical understanding.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder makes excellent use of the environment. Rich, varied and imaginative experiences are on offer for children both indoors and outdoors. The childminder balances adult-led activities with free play. Children have time to think and explore at their own pace. The childminder and her assistant are outstanding role models. Children behave exceptionally well, creating a vibrant and happy atmosphere for all. Children nominate each other to be recognised for being kind and helpful, which has a significant effect on their continued positive relationships and self-esteem. Children gain an excellent understanding of how to maintain good health. They have numerous opportunities to be active. They show their excellent knowledge of their bodies as they independently seek water to drink and talk about how their heart is beating faster.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points. The childminder consistently monitors their progress using meticulous observations and assessments that she shares frequently with parents. She then acts extremely swiftly to introduce activities that successfully support children's learning and to rapidly close any gaps.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123379
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	854156
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 April 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Harpenden. She works with an assistant. The childminder operates term time only from 8.30am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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