

Childminder Report

Inspection date	3 December 2015
Previous inspection date	11 May 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 quality of teaching is good. The well-qualified childminder has a secure understanding of how children learn through play. She observes children's play carefully and assesses their current stage of development. These precise assessments are used to plan fun activities that challenge children and hold their interest. Children make good progress.
- The childminder has carefully considered the organisation of resources, both indoors and outdoors. She ensures that she uses resources effectively to motivate and encourage children to explore and learn. The environment helps support their play and learning well.
- Partnerships with parents are effective. Parents contribute to the assessments and are kept informed of their child's progress and achievements. This shared approach helps to support children's good learning and development, both in their own home and in the childminder's care.
- Children settle quickly and well, and have positive relationships with the childminder. She is a good role model and provides clear and consistent guidance to children about boundaries for acceptable behaviour. Children are taught to share, take turns and be kind and polite to each other.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Reflection on practice does not always identify where all improvements can be made, in order to raise the quality of provision to the highest level.
- Children are not always given time to think about, and respond to, the childminder's questions and comments.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- refine the processes for evaluation, to identify and address further improvements and raise all aspects of practice to the highest level
- enhance opportunities for children to think about, and respond to, questions and comments during their play.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities 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 records, policies and procedures, and evidence of the suitability of the adults living on the premises.
- The inspector took account of a small sample of the views of parents.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is clear about what procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child. She carries out risk assessments to help minimise hazards. Recent training, for example safeguarding and paediatric first aid, helps her understand her role and responsibilities. The childminder attends other professional development opportunities to help improve the quality of her teaching. She reflects on her practice and has identified further training needs, including improving her knowledge about speech and language development. However, she has not yet fully considered all possible ways in which she can improve the quality of the service she offers. The childminder works with other childminders in the area to share good practice. She has established good relationships with the local school and nursery attended by children in her care. There are appropriate systems in place to liaise with other professionals when appropriate.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The enthusiastic childminder provides a wide range of exciting activities, including unusual and stimulating resources for children to explore and investigate. She ensures that there is an appropriate balance of adult-initiated and child-led play opportunities. Children are motivated and confident learners. They are helped to develop their early mathematical skills as they count and talk about colours and size in everyday play and routines. The childminder promotes children's communication and language skills well, through conversation about their activities. However, on occasions, she does not give them time to answer the questions she poses. The childminder gathers a range of information from parents when children first start, to inform her planning. Parents are very positive about their children's experiences in her care.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are learning how to look after themselves and have a healthy lifestyle. They are acquiring good independence skills, including feeding and dressing themselves and washing their own hands. The childminder provides children with nutritional, home-cooked meals and healthy snacks. There are frequent opportunities for children to enjoy physical exercise in the childminder's garden and on outings, for example, visits to the park. Children are given meaningful praise throughout their play which helps them to feel valued. They attend activities in the community, where they learn to socialise with other children. A range of activities, discussions and resources contribute to children gaining a good knowledge and understanding of diversity.

Outcomes for children are good

Children of various ages, including those who speak English as a second language, are supported by the childminder to make good progress from their starting points. They are consistently working well within the expected range of development across all areas of learning. Girls and boys are acquiring all of the appropriate skills that they will need in preparation for nursery and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY252819
Local authority	Hartlepool
Inspection number	860372
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	11 May 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2003 and lives in Hartlepool. She operates all year round from 8.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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