

Childminder Report

Inspection date

10 December 2015

Previous inspection date

10 July 2012

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 childminder is knowledgeable about how children learn and develop. She uses many successful methods to help build children's communication, language and ability to solve problems as they play and take part in activities.
- The childminder creates an appealing and well-equipped play area in her home that offers a wide range of resources to support children's learning. Toys are well presented and fully accessible, which helps children make choices and become confident.
- The childminder has a high regard for children's safety. She is vigilant in assessing and minimising risks within all areas of the environment and follows well-established procedures for keeping children safe on outings. This contributes to children's understanding of risk and keeping safe as they play.
- The childminder frequently observes children in order to establish their achievements and next steps in learning. She uses assessments well and ensures any gaps in learning are quickly addressed, focusing particularly on developing skills that children need for their next stage in learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, the childminder does not fully sustain the participation and attention of every child during activities.
- The childminder does not maximise opportunities to work with parents and other early years settings in order to fully support children's continuity in learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- consider strategies to extend children's full attention and participation during activities
- extend partnerships with parents and other settings to support continuity in children's learning more effectively.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector discussed a planned activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation, including training certificates, self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of the childminder, household members and assistants.

Inspector

Hilary Preece

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder takes a responsible approach to managing and evaluating her childminding service. Following a recent break from childminding, she has thoroughly updated her knowledge and skills. She accesses a range of training courses, information and support from professional bodies, then implements changes to her policies and practice. She uses an effective system to efficiently manage her records, policies and procedures. This keeps parents well informed about her practice. She recognises the importance of sharing information with parents and other early years settings that children attend to support continuity in learning. However, she has not yet found effective ways to overcome barriers to working collaboratively. Very occasionally, the childminder uses her husband as an assistant. She has a clear understanding of her responsibilities in supervising assistants and in checking their suitability. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder regularly refreshes her knowledge of child protection issues so that she knows how to respond to any concerns or allegations.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder plans a range of interesting activities and outings. Children who prefer to be active have plenty of opportunities to play outdoors and use soft-play centres. The childminder interacts well with children as they explore a collection of brightly coloured sensory materials. Children enjoy comparing the textures of glittery baubles and smooth baubles, and observing patterns on foil ribbons. They experiment with dipping the materials into paint to make marks and learn new words, such as spikey, to describe their patterns. They are supported to develop their thinking and understanding of concepts as they play, such as same and different. Most children are very engaged, motivated and keen to explore. On occasions, the childminder does not fully reflect on how to maximise the attention and concentration of all children.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder prepares children who are new to the setting by spending time with them and their parents before they start. This helps children to build positive relationships and feel secure. She is sensitive to their emotions, recognising that they need additional support and security when coping with change. The childminder discusses children's care with their parents and gives useful advice on how to support their independence or behaviour. She sets clear boundaries that keep children safe and foster respect. Children are developing positive values throughout their play and routines, such as learning to share and recognising how others feel. They speak politely and are willing to modify their behaviour when prompted.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are working very comfortably within the typical range of development for their age. The childminder focuses on helping them develop the key skills needed to prepare them well for school, such as planning daily routines to promote their independence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	260706
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	864636
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	3
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	10 July 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001 and lives in Welwyn. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder's husband is registered to work as a supervised assistant.

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