

Childminder Report

Inspection date

17 September 2015

Previous inspection date

19 September 2011

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 highly qualified childminder is passionate, enthusiastic and clearly relishes the role she has in supporting children to reach their full potential.
- Children are inquisitive, keen to learn and excited to explore and investigate their surroundings. They thoroughly enjoy leading their learning and making choices from a wide variety of high-quality resources, toys, tools and equipment.
- The childminder has excellent systems in place for when children start in the setting. She is extremely considerate of the needs of children and their families and offers flexible solutions as children settle.
- Children love spending time in the garden, which is safe and very well equipped. The childminder takes children to local groups and on a wide variety of outings, helping them to gain an excellent knowledge of their local area and developing their social skills effectively.
- The childminder keeps herself well informed of all legislative changes and audits her provision in light of these. She has all of the legally required documentation and records in place as well as a comprehensive range of policies to support her outstanding practice.
- The childminder uses tracking systems very effectively to ensure that any intervention needed is swift and that all children make the most rapid progress possible.
- The childminder has an excellent understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and provides rich and varied activities and experiences across all seven areas of learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop creative ways to share information with other settings.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the setting that are used for childminding.
- The inspector observed children and assessed the quality of the childminder's teaching.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including policies and procedures, risk assessments, children's records, learning journals, observations, assessments, planning and tracking.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all members of the household.

Inspector

Julia Matthew

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a detailed knowledge of her role in safeguarding children and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child's welfare. Risk assessments reflect children's individual needs and, without diminishing challenges for children, help to keep hazards to a minimum. The childminder regularly attends training to improve her practice. This has a very positive impact on the standard of care she provides and children's learning and development. The childminder works closely with parents and professionals to ensure that children's needs are met. She has excellent partnerships with schools. However, the childminder has recognised ways to further encourage information sharing between settings.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder has a deep understanding of how children learn and develop and is highly responsive to their needs. She provides an excellent balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities that successfully reflect children's interests and next steps in learning. The childminder is very skilful in supporting children's communication and language skills well. She empowers children to be verbal and clearly expresses her delight when they say new words and phrases. Children show how much they feel valued and are fast becoming confident communicators. Partnerships with parents are exceptionally strong they proactively share information about the children and this enriches the assessment and planning processes. The childminder uses a variety of innovative ways to share and celebrate children's progress with parents. Parents value consistent communication as it helps to ensure that children's achievements are continually built on, both at home and in the setting.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children clearly love being with the childminder who they excitedly play alongside and go to for comfort and reassurance. Children are extremely secure and the childminder promotes their physical and emotional well-being extremely well. Behaviour is excellent. The childminder has extremely high expectations of children and demonstrates how to be polite and considerate of others and the environment. She skilfully explains to children the need for rules and routines. The childminder encourages even the very youngest children to be independent. They demonstrate resilience and a determination to find solutions when faced with problems. However, the childminder is always close by to offer help or a suggestion if a child becomes frustrated. Children are extremely well supported to develop an understanding of risk. Role play is used to help them to understand road safety. A strong focus on healthy lifestyles helps children learn about the importance of healthy food, exercise and fresh air.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children make excellent progress from their starting points. Children develop a wide range of skills needed for school and are well prepared when they move on from the setting.

Setting details

Unique reference number	313696
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	847653
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	19 September 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1985 and lives in Leadgate, County Durham. She holds an early years qualification at level 3. The childminder operates from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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