

Childminder Report

Inspection date

30 September 2015

Previous inspection date

19 December 2008

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 qualified, skilled and experienced, and is a good role model to her assistants. All practitioners join in with children's play, sensitively supporting and encouraging them. Consequently, children are well motivated and make good progress in their learning.
- Children's emotional well-being is promoted successfully. The childminder and her assistants have formed secure attachments with all the children, understanding their individual needs.
- The childminder organises her space and resources exceptionally well. She provides a wide range of very good quality and interesting resources, along with exciting play experiences for children.
- The childminder successfully evaluates her service. She gains the views of children and parents to determine what works well, along with what changes to make to her practice. She has clear aims for the future to maintain good outcomes for children, including training.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always find out as much as possible from parents about what their children know and can do when they first start.
- The childminder does not always monitor children's development sharply enough. As a result, she does not routinely provide activities that precisely target children's individual learning needs and interests.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gain even more detailed information about what children can already do when they join the setting
- enhance the system for checking children's progress, in order to plan more precisely targeted activities that raise their achievements to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and her assistants. She also spoke with the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at those parts of the childminder's home used for the care of children.
- The inspector made a number of observations of activities, including undertaking a joint observation with the childminder. She also viewed the toys, resources and equipment available for children's use.
- The inspector looked at documentation, online learning journals and discussed children's progress towards the early learning goals with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with parents and took account of their views.

Inspector

Eleanor Thompson

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder is committed to providing children with good quality care and learning experiences. She has an accurate view of the effectiveness of her practice. She is aware of the areas in which she needs to develop and is committed to ongoing improvements. The childminder works closely with her assistants and she routinely observes and monitors their practice. Her assistants are currently working towards a level 3 qualification. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder implements a robust safeguarding policy and attends training, which helps her and her assistants to promote children's welfare. The childminder has established strong links with the local pre-school, working collaboratively to support individual children's progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Partnerships with parents are well established, enabling the childminder and parents to work together to support the care and learning needs of each child. Children's development records are constantly available and shared with parents, as the childminder has introduced the use of an online learning journal. However, she does not obtain enough information, in order to identify children's precise learning needs from the beginning. The childminder provides a good balance of adult-led and child-led activities. Children enjoy interesting and engaging activities that fuel their curiosity and encourage concentration. The childminder makes regular observations and assessments of children's development, planning activities that support the next steps in their learning. However, the childminder does not sharply focus the checking of children's progress to raise their level of attainment to outstanding.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides a secure environment, enabling children to investigate and play safely inside and outdoors. Children access an excellent outdoor space and regular trips out of the setting to the beach and woodland. The childminder provides a wide range of opportunities for children to investigate and discover the natural world. Children access resources independently, which supports their self-confidence and exploration skills. They enjoy healthy meals and snacks and learn good hygiene routines. The childminder works closely with parents to promote children's care needs, such as their individual sleep routines. This means that babies and children benefit from a homely atmosphere, which helps them feel secure. Older children demonstrate that they have a familiar routine, which helps them to feel safe and confident in the setting.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are very confident and eager to participate and learn. They all make good progress, including those who receive funded early education. Circle time and group activities promote social skills, such as turn taking. This supports their self-confidence, helping them to be ready for the next stage in their learning and the move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY362401
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	849639
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	9
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	19 December 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Westcliff-on-Sea. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She offers funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The childminder employs three assistants to work in her setting.

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