

Childminder Report

Inspection date

11 January 2016

Previous inspection date

14 December 2011

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 well qualified and committed to continuous improvement. She organises her setting well and seeks the views of her co-childminder, assistants and parents. This supports the identification of the childminder's strengths and areas for development.
- The childminder demonstrates friendly and trusting relationships with parents. She keeps them informed about their children's day, both through written information and daily verbal feedback.
- The childminder observes children as they play and evaluates her observations effectively. She is aware of where each child is in their learning and the progress they have made since they have been attending her setting.
- The childminder has a secure understanding of the age group she is working with. She plans activities that are varied and interesting.
- The childminder establishes warm and caring relationships with the children. Children feel safe and secure, readily going to her for cuddles and reassurance.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always ensure that activities offer sufficient challenge. She sometimes overlooks opportunities to further promote children's developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.
- The childminder's programme of professional development is not sharply focused. She does not ensure that she is up to date with latest guidance and practice issues, to support her in achieving and maintaining outstanding care and learning for all children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more closely on consistently providing activities that offer children sufficient challenge and fully supports their developing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills
- strengthen plans for professional development, to keep up to date with latest guidance and practice issues and support working towards achieving and maintaining outstanding practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the assistant at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and jointly evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of staff and household members, qualifications of the childminder and other staff and the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector took account of written testimonials from parents.

Inspector

Jacqueline Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder fully understands her responsibilities to safeguard the welfare of children. She has a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse to help her recognise when children may be at risk. She knows how to report concerns. The childminder places a high importance on keeping children safe. Daily risk assessments of the premises ensure that children are able to play safely, both indoors and outside. The childminder deploys her staff effectively to provide children with a good level of supervision and support. She supervises her assistants informally, through chats where they discuss what has gone well each day. There is also a system of formal appraisal to foster a culture of mutual support. All staff maintain paediatric first-aid training, helping ensure that children's emergency health needs can be met.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder supports the learning of the different ages of children attending. She is aware of how children like to play and learn and provides activities that support all areas of learning. The childminder responds well to children's interests and is actively engaged in their play, chatting to them about what they are doing and supporting their speech and language development. For example, when playing in the role-play kitchen with younger children she identifies items of play food. She gives children the name of the item and encourages them to repeat it back. Children are beginning to engage in pretend play with toys. They develop their finger muscles as they play with the play dough and the childminder provides a range of cutters and rolling pins for them to use.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder talks to parents about children's established routines and follows these, promoting continuity of care. Written testimonials from parents indicate the high regard that parents have of her. They describe the childminder, her co-childminder and assistants as kind and dedicated and amazing. The childminder is a good role model. She helps children to play well together, share toys and learn about what is acceptable behaviour. Children are happy and settled in this warm and welcoming setting. They have daily opportunities to play and learn outdoors. In addition to the garden, the childminder uses the local playground where children develop their physical skills. Children are helped to understand the importance of a balanced diet and make healthy choices about what they eat and drink.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop a good foundation to support their future learning. They are prepared well for the move to school or nursery. Children understand that print carries meaning and develop a love of books, effectively supporting their early reading skills. They manage their own personal hygiene, relevant to their age and develop self-care skills, such as putting on their own coat and shoes. The childminder checks children's progress regularly, to ensure that they are making good progress from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY431840
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	853258
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	13
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	14 December 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2011. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. She works with a co-childminder and assistants.

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