

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 February 2016

Previous inspection date

21 December 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 childminder has an excellent knowledge of how young children learn and develop. She completes robust assessments to ensure that each child's future learning needs are accurately identified and catered for. Any gaps in development are quickly identified and expertly remedied. This ensures that no child falls behind their peers and that all children make consistently rapid progress.
- The childminder forms particularly strong relationships with the children she cares for. Her genuine warmth and empathy mean that children are exceptionally well supported emotionally. Children show that they feel safe and secure in the extremely welcoming environment she has created for them.
- Children's behaviour is exemplary. This is supported by the childminder's calm and effective approach to dealing with any unwanted actions. Children are encouraged to be thoughtful and considerate. They are especially affectionate and caring towards each other.
- Partnerships with parents are highly effective. The childminder encourages them to be fully involved in all aspects of their children's care and learning. They are consulted regularly about their children's progress and provided with ways in which they can extend their children's learning at home. Parents report a very high level of appreciation for the childminder's service.
- The childminder is particularly successful in encouraging children's early language and literacy skills. Children develop a love of books through interactive and very stimulating story times. Children's acquisition of language is particularly rapid. The childminder models the use of new vocabulary, encouraging children to use and extend their developing communication skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore ways to further extend children's reasoning skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector evaluated an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's policies and children's records.

Inspector

Lynn Weeks

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is fully aware of how to protect children from harm and her extensive knowledge is underpinned by comprehensive policies and procedures. The childminder rigorously checks and monitors children's development. She obtains in-depth information from parents to add to her own detailed observations. The childminder's self-evaluation processes are very robust. She includes the opinions of parents to help her identify any areas for development. The childminder has a wealth of experience, is well qualified and further develops her teaching skills through sharing best practice with other childminders. She uses the information gathered to continually enhance her provision. The childminder has formed exceptionally strong links with other settings children attend. She diligently shares relevant information to promote a shared approach. This helps children to make the best possible progress as all learning experiences complement each other fully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder uses her knowledge of each child's interests to plan highly stimulating experiences and activities which precisely meet the needs of all children. She has very high expectations of what children can achieve and skilfully adapts tasks to challenge and stretch children. Activities are exciting and engaging. Older children's imagination is sparked as they prepare a pretend Chinese meal. The childminder uses this opportunity to increase children's understanding of different cultures. Younger children are completely absorbed in stories as the childminder uses puppets to hold their attention. Literacy skills are exceptional. Children recognise their name and write some letters independently, demonstrating impressive skills for their age. Resources are easily accessible, enabling children to successfully explore and initiate their own play. The childminder's clear explanations and questions expertly promote children's emerging thinking skills. The childminder is now looking at ways to help children further develop their reasoning skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder ensures every child thrives in her care. Children interact confidently with each other and share resources readily. They are developing high levels of independence and manage their self-care needs exceptionally well. They butter their own crumpets at lunchtime, set the table for tea and tidy away the toys. The childminder promotes healthy lifestyles superbly. Children participate in an excellent range of activities where they can be active. For example, they develop a range of physical skills during visits to the local wood where they explore and make 'dens'. The childminder provides highly nutritious meals and helps children learn about how different foods are good for you. Children grow their own fruit and vegetables, which they then harvest and eat.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

All children are making rapid and sustained progress from their starting points. They are highly motivated and fully engaged in their play and learning. Consequently, children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage in their learning and their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	201919
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	854296
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	21 December 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1995 and lives in Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

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