

Childminder Report

Inspection date

3 March 2016

Previous inspection date

22 October 2012

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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

- All children in the childminder's care make good progress. They develop self-esteem and gain the communication skills needed to help them move on to pre-school or school with confidence when the time comes.
- Partnerships with parents are very good. The childminder's consistent communications with each family help to reassure parents. Children's confidence grows as they see their parents and the childminder working positively together. The childminder is vigilant about keeping shared information secure and maintaining confidentiality.
- The childminder observes children's play and gathers information from parents, and any previous providers as appropriate, about what children already know, understand and can do. She identifies children's starting points and plans ways to promote their next steps for learning.
- The childminder links with other local early years providers to share ideas and good practice. This helps her to provide varied and interesting learning opportunities for children.
- Children enjoy plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise. The childminder provides a wealth of interesting activities and resources to support children's learning about the natural world.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder's professional development is not sharply focused on extending her knowledge and teaching skills in specific 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:

- place a stronger focus on continuing professional development, linked more precisely to specific aspects of learning in order to support and enhance teaching practice even further.

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 checked relevant documentation, including the suitability checks of the childminder and her husband.
- The inspector took account of the childminder's self-evaluation records, along with written feedback from parents.
- The inspector spoke with the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder takes good measures to ensure children are kept safe from harm. Her home and garden are safe and secure and children are never left unattended. The childminder reflects on her practice. She talks with parents and children daily and encourages parents to complete feedback questionnaires. This gives them opportunities to suggest how she could adapt or develop in order to continue meeting their family's growing and changing childcare needs. The childminder understands that the parents are their child's foremost educator. She provides photographs and daily diaries capturing and detailing their child's active learning to enable parents to build on this at home.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder interacts warmly with the children and supports their independent learning. The childminder plans activities and outings which build on each child's current ability and emerging interests. This helps them to make good progress through first-hand learning experiences. For example, she extends children's vocabulary while sharing stories with them. Children develop their physical skills, for instance, as they dig and plant. They learn about the wider world as they take bus rides, visit local groups and enjoy refreshments in a local cafe. The childminder takes time to check the progress made by each child and to look at where future support can be targeted in order to promote children's continuing good progress. This helps her to identify if there are any emerging gaps in children's learning. Where these are noted, she takes immediate action to close or minimise these as quickly as possible, working in partnership with their parents.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The children play harmoniously and they show care and consideration for each other while making dens or playing with toys. The childminder demonstrates good manners, helping the children to learn about acceptable behaviour. She takes time to talk with parents before their child begins attending her setting. This helps her to learn about their individual care needs and interests. The childminder uses this information to help children to feel confident and safe in her care. Parents provide meals to complement the healthy snacks offered by the childminder. The childminder talks with children about the different foods they like to eat. She helps them to learn about difference in foods, including those that help them to grow strong and those which are best kept for treats.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress towards the early learning goals based on their age, abilities and starting points. They participate in play, building good relationships with each other. Children's self-assurance grows as their communication skills increase and their understanding of their world develops. Together, the children learn skills that help to prepare them well for their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	222523
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	1036907
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	22 October 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Cambridge. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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