

Childminder Report

Inspection date

7 March 2016

Previous inspection date

8 December 2009

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

- Children enjoy a wide variety of activities. Resources are plentiful and are used successfully by the childminder to support children's learning.
- Children's communication and language is well supported. The childminder talks to the children, asking questions to encourage them to think. She uses lots of repetition of words to support their language development.
- Children's personal, social and emotional skills are given high priority. They regularly meet with other children and familiar adults and visit places of interest.
- Children play in a safe, secure environment. Potential risks within the home and garden have been identified and minimised. Children learn about their own safety. They follow clear and consistent routines when walking to and from school and learn how to stay safe near the road.
- Partnerships with parents and other professionals involved in children's lives are good. Good communication between all parties ensures children's changing needs are known which helps them to receive continuity of care.
- The childminder is proactive in continuing her own professional development. She ensures her knowledge remains up to date with current legislation and best practice.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always gain sufficient information from her observations of children's progress to identify and plan for their learning needs more precisely.
- The childminder has not explored ways to gain and reflect the views and opinions of the children as part of her self-evaluation process.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of observations of children's progress, in order to gain a broader overview of their achievements and plan more precisely for their individual learning needs
- review procedures for seeking, evaluating and acting on the views of the children to enhance self-evaluation and drive continual improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector observed an activity and discussed teaching methods with the provider.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of adults in the home.
- The inspector took account of the written views of the parents using the service.

Inspector

Tracey Boland

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is knowledgeable of the potential signs of abuse and neglect. She is fully conversant with the procedure to follow if concerned about a child in her care. The childminder welcomes the views of the parents using her service. This alongside her own evaluation of her practice enables her to identify ways of enhancing the care and learning she provides. The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and successfully implements the requirements. She actively seeks to continually develop her own knowledge and skills, and regularly meets with other childminders to share ideas. This best practice is also shared with the assistant, who occasionally works with her during the school holidays.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children's attention and curiosity to learn is nurtured through the activities and resources available to them. Children's communication and language skills are supported well. The childminder encourages children to share their experiences and use their developing language in everyday routines and tasks. Children use small tools and equipment outdoors. They mould different materials and explore their senses. Children make marks and practise their early writing skills. They enjoy looking at books with the childminder or alone and freely access a wide selection which is readily available. Children learn about the local community. They enjoy taking walks in the local area and regularly meet with other children at the groups they attend. The childminder provides activities to support their learning and helps prepare them for the move to school. She works closely with parents and other professionals involved in children's lives.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder ensures children feel happy, settled and relaxed in her home through a gradual setting-in process. Time is spent getting to know each child and gathering information about them from their parents. This enables her to ensure care is tailored to meet their individual needs. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. They walk to and from school each day and enjoy playing in the garden and visiting local parks where they can be physically active. Children sleep and rest as they need to. The childminder is sensitive to their needs and maintains children's comfort throughout the day. The childminder works closely with parents with regard to healthy packed lunches. She provides freshly prepared evening meals and children are also involved in making their own food.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress and are well prepared for their future learning and school. Children become confident individuals, learn independence skills in daily routines and enjoy sharing their experiences with the other children. Younger children used foam, sand and paint to make marks and practice their letter formation. They operate simple electronic toys as they become aware of how their actions cause such resources to move. They discover the properties of magnets as they use the letters on a whiteboard to create simple words.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221297
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	854571
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 12
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	11
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 December 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1996 and lives in Brixworth, Northamptonshire. She operates all year round from 6.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant.

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