

Childminder Report

Inspection date

25 May 2016

Previous inspection date

1 March 2013

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

- Since the last inspection, the childminder has developed her partnership working with other settings that children attend. She regularly discusses children's progress with them and they work together on strategies to help promote consistency in children's learning.
- The childminder's teaching is strong and children make good progress. She takes note of what motivates children to learn and plans activities based on their interests and ideas.
- Children are developing good literacy and mathematical skills. They notice letters in the environment and relate them to their names. They recognise numerals and understand their significance. For example, when children see dates on posters, they are able to identify that they represent the current year.
- The childminder is a positive role model and children are aware of boundaries. They behave well and respond positively to the childminder's calm and relaxed approach. Children display good manners as they ask the childminder for help or extra resources.
- The childminder uses self-evaluation to reflect on her practice. She takes into account the views of parents which she gains from questionnaires and her regular discussions with them.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder generally builds good partnerships with parents, she does not always seek precise information from them about children's learning when they first join the setting.
- The childminder does not make best use of opportunities to help children develop skills in operating technological toys and equipment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more detailed information from parents when children first start so that children's prior achievements can be included in their starting point assessments
- strengthen opportunities for children to develop their skills in operating and using technological toys and equipment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder joining in with activities alongside children and discussed the learning that was taking place with her.
- The inspector saw the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation. Evidence of the suitability of household members and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy, were also seen.
- The inspector took account of the childminder's self-evaluation form and the views of parents.

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of how to keep children safe from harm. She has robust procedures in place to react quickly to any concerns she has about a child. She has a thorough set of policies and procedures which underpins her good practice. She reflects on her knowledge and teaching skills and identifies areas she wants to develop further. The childminder effectively reviews children's progress. This ensures that any weaknesses in learning are quickly identified and strategies are put in place to address them. This helps her to promote good outcomes for children. The childminder communicates well with parents. They regularly share information about children's ongoing learning and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides a wide range of craft resources for children to explore. She encourages them to think creatively and they discuss what they are going to make. Children concentrate very well as they make masks and draw detailed pictures. They develop their ideas into imaginative play as they practise puppet shows from behind the sofa. The childminder acknowledges children's efforts and achievements with lots of praise and encouragement. Children talk about what challenge they should undertake next, demonstrating their eagerness to learn new skills. The childminder understands children's next steps in learning and is able to ensure that the activities they experience continue to interest and motivate them. She uses regular discussions to update parents about what their children are doing during the day. She takes into account what children have been doing at home and at nursery and plans activities to complement their learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder helps children become independent and confident. She has clear, consistent boundaries in place. These help children to manage their own behaviour and they show respect for the childminder and for each other. Children understand the rules and are developing an understanding of their own safety. For example, they explain why they should not jump off the furniture. Children are supported well in developing an understanding of healthy lifestyles. The childminder provides nutritious snacks and she talks to the children about the healthy food they are growing. The childminder ensures that children have plenty of opportunities to be outdoors. They enjoy walks in the local community, trips to local parks and they take bus rides into town.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress. They engage well in their chosen activities and are developing into independent learners. Children have many opportunities to practise their early writing skills. They are proud to show the childminder how they can write their names. Children discuss what happens on different days of the week and show the childminder how they can write the first letter of each day. As children look at books, they count how many pictures are on each page. They are developing key skills which prepare them well for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123348
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1042769
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	1 March 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1994 and lives in St Albans. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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