

Childminder Report

Inspection date

26 May 2016

Previous inspection date

18 May 2010

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The childminder closely assesses children's development. She observes their skills and identifies their next steps in learning. There are secure procedures to share information about children's progress with parents. Children benefit from continuous support.
- Teaching is good. The childminder strongly promotes children's interests. Children enjoy craft activities and have a variety of art resources. They make pictures to take home and engage with the childminder in discussions about their families.
- The childminder is very welcoming and children form strong bonds with her. She is extremely attentive and accurately meets their needs. Children settle well and promptly.
- The childminder astutely promotes children's good health. They enjoy nutritious meals, daily exercise and outdoor play. Children are independent and manage own hygiene needs.
- The childminder has developed very strong links with other settings that children attend. Detailed information about children's interests and skills is exchanged. Children's needs are promoted well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not frequently use number names and number language in play with children.
- The childminder does not always make best use of information gained from her evaluation of practice to target her identified areas for improvement.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide further opportunities for children to learn and use number names and number language in play and activities
- expand the use of information gained from evaluation of practice to ensure that identified aspects for improvement are purposefully targeted.

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 completed joint evaluations of activities with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation, such as, the childminder's self-evaluation, evidence of her suitability and the suitability of members of the household. The inspector looked at evidence of the childminder's training.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents in written feedback.

Inspector

Karinna Hemerling

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder participates in child protection training and confidently knows the steps to take to protect children's welfare. She closely assesses play areas and plans outings in detail to ensure that risks are always minimised. Children learn about personal safety. The childminder improves her knowledge and teaching skills through training. She keeps her policies and procedures in line with current legislation and often implements new ideas which benefit the children. The childminder expertly involves parents in her practice. She skilfully introduces them to her services, educational programmes and routines. There are procedures to obtain parents' views that help the childminder in tailoring practice to children's needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder knows children well. She effectively extends their play with plenty of resources, across all areas of learning. For example, children explore different ways of blowing bubbles, using tools and their hands. They enjoy chasing the bubbles, bursting them and observing their colours. The childminder provides children with opportunities for investigation. Children explore coloured rice using containers, funnels and empty bottles. They analyse what happens when they mix rice with water. The childminder makes modelling dough with children and provides them with cutters and scissors. Children create 'food' with modelling dough and 'cook' meals. They are very creative, concentrate well and show good manual skills and imagination. Assessments of children's learning are effective and children progress well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder builds on extremely strong partnerships with parents and exchanges detailed information with them about children's care needs. Daily diaries and discussions keep parents fully informed about children's experiences and routines with the childminder. Practice is very inclusive. The childminder has very supportive strategies to teach children what is right and wrong. Children are very confident. The childminder is a positive role model for children and expertly promotes good manners. She involves parents in managing children's behaviour and children behave exceptionally well. The childminder provides children with a very nurturing environment, where praise is used as a tool for encouragement. Parents regard her care practice as highly effective.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are eager learners and develop their skills at a good pace. They have continual access to writing and drawing activities, enjoy books and use them to extend their play and learning. For example, they make bugs out of modeling dough and use books to look at pictures to see what the bugs look like. Children learn about the world and nature. They explore technology, plants and learn about life cycles. Children are creative and imaginative. For example, they find hidden coins in the coloured rice tray and pretend that they are pirates' treasure. Children's progress is tracked and monitored. They are developing key skills which prepare them well for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123357
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	874745
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	7
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1992 and lives in St. Albans. She operates all year round, Monday to Thursday from 7.45am to 6pm, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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