

Childminder Report

Inspection date

7 June 2016

Previous inspection date

16 July 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Outstanding	1
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 swiftly addressed the action raised at her last inspection. She continually strives for excellence and constantly reflects on all aspects of her practice to make significant improvements that promote the best possible outcomes for all children.
- The outstanding learning environment is wonderfully stimulating and exceptionally child friendly. Children feel very at ease, confidently explore the exciting play spaces indoors and outside, and play at their own pace. They make independent choices from the extensive range of excellent resources and lead their own play.
- Children's understanding of nature and the world around them is exceptionally well promoted. The childminder is highly successful in providing opportunities for children to explore natural materials, study insects and learn about the life cycles of plants.
- Children learn how to care for their environment. They take part in recycling activities, help compost waste food and begin to understand about solar power. Children understand how rainwater is collected to use for watering the plants, flowers and herbs they are growing in the garden.
- Excellent partnerships with parents help the childminder to support children extremely well. The childminder is extremely sensitive to individual families' needs and is very effective in providing ideas or resources to promote children's learning at home. Parents comment that the childminder is an invaluable source of support and provides a relaxed, safe and enjoyable environment for children.
- Children's emotional development and well-being is promoted exceptionally well. They build an excellent bond with the childminder and assistants. This provides a strong base for their developing independence. The childminder is an excellent role model. She is calm and applies consistent boundaries to support children's exemplary behaviour.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to look at further ways to maintain excellent practice and evaluate the impact of these on the provision for children.

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 spoke with the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She evaluated a focused activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the childminder's self-evaluation, records of children's learning and development, written risk assessments and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all household members and adults working with children and evidence of the qualifications of the childminder and her assistants.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents provided through written testimonials.

Inspector

Lindsey Cullum

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

The well qualified and very experienced childminder organises her provision extremely well to meet each child's individual needs, including effective supervision of her assistant's practice. Excellent use is made of all training available, research and meetings with other childminders, to build on her knowledge and skills. The childminder is keen to maintain her excellent practice by extending the links she has with other early years professionals. Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is extremely vigilant in her supervision of children. She has an in-depth understanding of child protection issues and the reporting procedure if she has concerns about children. The childminder makes excellent links with other early years settings children attend. This enables her to fully support learning that takes place across all aspects of children's lives.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder knows children very well and is extremely skilled in assessing their progress. Her extensive monitoring systems enable her to identify clear and astutely targeted next steps in learning and ensure that any gaps are swiftly addressed. This is reflected in the excellent progress all children make. The childminder is highly skilled in knowing when to step back and allow children time to explore, balanced with timely interactions to extend learning further. Children demonstrate high levels of concentration and perseverance as they complete challenging puzzles. They competently identify colours, numbers and shapes, responding to the childminder's pertinent questions. Children's communication skills, including those who speak English as an additional language, are exceptionally well supported. The childminder provides an excellent commentary to children's play, adds new words and repeats these clearly, extends sentences and engages children in conversations.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to develop the confidence and self-esteem of young children. She offers sensitive support, encouragement and praise for their efforts and achievements. From a young age, children show high levels of independence and manage their self-care very well. Children develop excellent attitudes to diversity and respect for the world around them. They learn about the local community as they go on outings with the childminder and socialise with other adults and children. Children learn to adopt healthy lifestyles as they have excellent opportunities to enjoy fresh air and challenge themselves physically. She teaches children how to manage risks and keep themselves safe in an environment that promotes their independence.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy the vibrant and stimulating opportunities and make excellent progress in their learning based on their starting points. They listen well to stories and use books for reference. Children very effectively link sounds to letters and frequently practise their early writing skills. They competently learn to problem solve and use simple mathematical skills. This prepares them extremely well for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251326
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1044283
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 13
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	21
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	16 July 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1991 and lives in Lowestoft, Suffolk. She occasionally works with an assistant. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 4. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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