

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 June 2016

Previous inspection date

16 September 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	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 her last inspection, the childminder has worked closely with a local authority development worker to improve her provision. The childminder has successfully addressed identified weaknesses to promote children's care, learning and welfare. She has improved her use of observation and assessment to help her accurately identify each child's stage of development and monitor their progress.
- Children are happy and well settled in the childminder's home. They are confident in their play and interactions and develop good relationships with the childminder and her family.
- The childminder has a good knowledge of the interests and capabilities of the children she cares for. She provides them with well planned and interestingly resourced activities that provide suitable challenge and enjoyment.
- The childminder keeps parents well informed about their children's achievements and the activities they have enjoyed. Parents appreciate the childminder's support and help. They praise the verbal communication and her regular reports about their child's progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder does not make the most of information from assessments to help her precisely target what children need to learn next to promote their more rapid progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the use of information gained from assessments to focus more sharply on ways of targeting what children need to learn next to help all children make rapid progress

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector evaluated an activity with the childminder. She spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation, children's records and evidence of the suitability of household members.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from their written testimonials and parental questionnaires.

Inspector

Gill Thornton

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder understands her responsibilities to protect children and keep them safe from harm. She knows the children in her care well and is knowledgeable about their stage of development. The childminder works with parents and other settings that children attend to promote their good progress. The childminder uses continual professional development to help her to improve her knowledge and skills further. She identifies relevant training opportunities to help focus her teaching on the needs of the children she cares for. She also researches different ways of supporting children's speech and language skills to help her learn about the strategies used in the local nursery.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder adapts her teaching and questioning skills dependent upon the ages and capabilities of the children in her care. She asks effective questions of older children to encourage them to think and work out their own ways of doing things. She uses topics to help plan adult-led activities that reflect children's different skills and abilities. Younger children enjoy playing with damp sand. They develop their hand-to-eye coordination as they use a spoon to scoop up sand. They understand and follow the childminder's instructions as they sort stones into different-coloured pots. The childminder recognises individual children's interests, such as older children's fascination with numbers. She uses effective strategies to exploit this interest, using well-considered resources to help children learn to concentrate and learn new skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder is careful to follow parents' wishes regarding individual children's healthcare needs. She is flexible about the care she provides to fit in with the needs of the families who use her provision. The childminder uses consistent strategies to encourage children to take account of each other's views and feelings. She provides children with plenty of opportunity to enjoy physical exercise in the fresh air. The childminder ensures children are emotionally secure and ready to face changes in their lives. She uses praise and encouragement effectively to promote children's self-esteem and their sense of pride in their own achievements.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points in readiness for their move on to school or nursery. They are enthusiastic as they explore resources and discover new ways of doing things. Older children confidently ask questions. They carefully consider the childminder's responses and ask further questions if they are not sure about something. They have good opportunities to demonstrate skills, such as telling the time and writing their names. Younger children are confident to communicate what they want. Children are self-assured as they make choices from the toys and resources available.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY276712
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1044219
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	17
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	16 September 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2004 and lives in Colchester. She operates all year round from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for four-year-old children.

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