

Childminder Report

Inspection date

11 July 2016

Previous inspection date

16 December 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

- The childminder has made significant improvement to the provision she offers since the previous inspection. She meets all statutory requirements and has successfully addressed the recommendations raised. Children are now provided with good opportunities to develop their independence skills. The childminder has effectively refined her planning system and shares this with her co-childminder.
- Children are very happy and settled with the friendly childminder. She offers a relaxed, nurturing and fun-filled environment for them. Children express their care and affection for her. They tell her to be careful when filling up a watering can for them.
- The experienced childminder models effective listening skills and introduces children to new words to help promote their communication and language development. She speaks clearly and adjusts her speech in relation to children's level of understanding.
- Children thoroughly enjoy the childminder's storytelling. She helps them understand the flow of reading by moving her finger under each word from left to right on the pages.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder obtains some useful information from parents when children first attend. However, her questions are not sharply focused to fully support her initial identification of children's precise learning needs.
- The childminder is yet to establish highly effective partnerships with all other providers that children attend.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend the level of initial information obtained from parents to include further detail of children's development, in order to plan more precisely for their progress from an early stage
- strengthen the partnership with other providers that children attend so that more precise information about children's next steps in learning is shared to support their continuity of learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during indoor and outdoor activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector observed a planned activity and jointly discussed this with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records, a selection of policies, safety procedures and required documentation.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder and adults over 16 years of age who live at the premises.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.
- The inspector reviewed how the childminder evaluates her setting to continually improve outcomes for children.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder is reflective and continuously evaluates her practice in partnership with her co-childminder, with a view to developing the service they provide even further. She carefully reviews the learning programmes to ensure that any gaps in children's learning are swiftly addressed. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder knows how to swiftly meet children's needs in the event of a child protection concern. She is committed to continually improving her knowledge and skills. She attends regular training and reads professional publications. This has helped her to provide children with an increased range of stimulating experiences to promote their expressive art and design skills. The childminder runs a weekly parent and toddler group with her co-childminder. She shares her wealth of experience and her practice with other childminders who attend, to help improve their practice and outcomes for other children. Parents appreciate the ongoing, detailed feedback of their children's progress and the ideas to extend their children's learning at home. They describe the childminder's provision as, 'One big, happy family'.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder's genuine interest in children's play and her consistent praise motivate them to complete challenging activities. Children successfully fill different sized containers with water. They carefully transport them to other areas of the childminder's garden without spilling the water. This helps to develop their control and coordination. The childminder encourages children to solve problems through trial and error in a fun and engaging way. Children persevere at creating a puddle of water in a large tray by using wet sand to mould a surrounding wall. They solve mathematical problems and spontaneously use number names in their play. Children develop a high level of understanding of similarities and differences between themselves and others. They use mirrors to compare the colour of their hair and eyes and talk about how twins do not always look the same.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder is a good role model. She calmly and consistently reinforces good manners. Children demonstrate friendly relationships and respect for each other. They patiently wait until everyone has finished eating before leaving the table. Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle. For example, they understand the importance of regularly brushing their teeth. Children help the childminder to nurture strawberries that grow in her garden. They taste these to help them develop a wide range of tastes. The childminder makes good use of her inviting garden and local parks to enhance children's physical development. For example, children have immense fun participating in challenging obstacle courses.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress in their learning given their starting points. They demonstrate a very positive attitude towards learning. Children are confident individuals who clearly demonstrate the key skills they need for future learning and they are well prepared for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123944
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1044755
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	13
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	16 December 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1995 and lives in Hertford. She works with a co-childminder on a full-time basis. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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