

Childminder Report

Inspection date

12 July 2016

Previous inspection date

28 April 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 effective, consistent improvements since her last inspection. She now reflects regularly on her practice, seeking the views of parents and children to help drive the quality of her service forward.
- Children make good progress. The childminder supports children to learn about shape, size and number as they dig up potatoes. She effectively questions children to help them identify changes in the food they are growing.
- Children settle well with the childminder. She adapts her settling-in procedures to meet each child's needs. She gains valuable information on what children can already do from parents and from children's previous settings. This helps her to swiftly identify children's starting points in all aspects of learning.
- Children demonstrate their growing awareness of how to keep themselves safe. They know how to use the crossing to cross the road. They use tools and equipment safely, such as spades to dig and a spiralizer to prepare vegetables for meals.
- The childminder has established good relationships with local schools. She encourages teachers and children from the local school to visit her allotment. The headteacher's feedback shows the positive impact this has on children's learning and well-being.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasions, the childminder does not provide the best possible support for some aspects of children's literacy development. She does not always make the most of opportunities when children show an interest in words in books and in the environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide even more opportunities for children to show an interest in print in books and in the environment to support their early reading skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder joining in activities with children and discussed the learning that was taking place with her.
- The inspector saw the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding and accompanied the childminder and children on an outing to an allotment.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and the childminder's planning documentation. Evidence of the suitability of household members and a range of other documents, including the safeguarding policy, was also seen.
- The inspector spoke to and interacted with children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- 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 childminder sources professional development opportunities to improve her skills and knowledge. She uses online forums to keep herself up to date with new initiatives. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is confident about following appropriate child protection procedures, which helps to protect children's welfare. She reviews risks in her home and on the daily walks and outings for children. The childminder has effective procedures in place to help her reflect on the activities she provides and the rate of children's progress. She ensures any gaps in children's development are quickly identified and plans strategies to address them. The childminder has developed good links with the local children's centre. She seeks information and support where appropriate and sign-posts parents to services they provide.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children play imaginatively together very well. They use all areas of the childminder's home as they pretend to be at home and visit the shops. They draw the childminder into their play as they ask her to be the shop lady. The childminder sensitively teaches children as they play. She introduces numbers and counting as they pretend to buy fruit and vegetables from her. The childminder teaches children about the world as they look at stickers on fruit and find the country of origin on a map. The childminder is aware of children's next steps in learning and plans activities that are suitably challenging. She regularly shares development information with parents and receives updates from them regarding what children have been doing and learning at home. The childminder has developed effective relationships with key persons at other settings children attend. They share development information and the childminder plans activities to complement children's learning at nursery and pre-school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder places high value on promoting outdoor learning for children. She uses her extensive allotment to help children gain valuable knowledge and experience of how food grows. This helps children develop healthy eating habits and they thoroughly enjoy tending to and gathering fresh fruit and vegetables. Children are happy, they have fun together and demonstrate they feel secure in the childminder's home. They are developing good independence as they do things for themselves, such as taking off their shoes. Children understand why they need to wash their hands at appropriate times. Parents are kept well informed of what children have been doing. They state how happy they are with the care and education their children receive from the nurturing childminder.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress and enjoy learning. They are developing very good communication and language skills. Children hold very effective conversations with the childminder. They demonstrate their enquiring minds as they ask questions and seek information. The childminder supports children to be ready for the move to school. She ensures they are developing skills they need, such as counting and understanding numbers.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY385370
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1043773
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 12
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	13
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	28 April 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2008 and lives in Harpenden. She operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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