

Childminder Report

Inspection date

9 August 2016

Previous inspection date

9 June 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 positive improvements since the last inspection. She now ensures that activity planning covers all areas of learning and is tailored to children's individual learning needs. The childminder has also improved the way she observes and monitors children's progress.
- Children are happy, confident and self-motivated as they play inside and outdoors. They have ample space and use the exciting environment to make independent choices in their play. Children make good progress and develop the skills they need for future learning.
- The childminder uses a range of outings to raise children's awareness of their community and the wider world. She also provides a variety of resources to support children's understanding of equality and diversity.
- Children behave well. The childminder helps children to understand and follow her rules and boundaries and she supports them in managing their feelings.
- The childminder effectively works with parents when children join the setting. She ensures her care reflects children's routines at home to help them settle quickly. Parents make very complimentary comments about the care the childminder provides.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder uses conversations to develop children's vocabulary, she does not make the most of every opportunity to enhance younger children's speaking and language skills.
- The childminder does not use highly successful methods to directly engage parents in sharing information about their children's achievements or provide ideas for ways they can support their children's learning at home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- explore more opportunities for younger children to talk about their ideas, explain what is happening and recall past experiences
- strengthen ways to involve parents in extending their children's learning and encourage them to share more information about their children's achievements at home.

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 viewed a focused activity with the childminder and discussed children's progress and achievements.
- The inspector viewed children's development records.
- The inspector reviewed evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder and her assistant, self-evaluation, risk assessment and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from their written testimonials and responses to surveys organised by the childminder.

Inspector

Patricia Champion

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is up to date in her knowledge of new legislation and the local authority updates that affect her practice. Both the childminder and her assistant complete safeguarding and first-aid training so that they can deal with emergency situations and minor accidents. They know the correct reporting procedures to follow should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Since the last inspection, the childminder has moved house. She regularly carries out risk assessments of her new home to ensure that children play in a safe and secure environment, both indoors and outside. The childminder effectively evaluates strengths in her practice, as well as areas for development. She is keen to enhance her knowledge and skills further to benefit children. The childminder attends regular training events and monitors her assistant's practice to promote consistency. She also promptly acts on any suggestions made by her local childminding network adviser.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder is a skilful teacher and uses her good understanding of children to create many learning opportunities. Children have a wonderful time exploring sand with small-world resources to develop their imagination. Spontaneous events, such as finding a snail in the garden, are used well to develop children's understanding of nature and wildlife. The childminder provides an attractively presented range of resources, toys and equipment, inside and outdoors. Children are encouraged to develop their own ideas and work out ways of using items differently. For example, children have fun creating models with recycled cartons and tubes. The childminder has very good relationships with other settings and the local children's centre. She regularly borrows additional resources from them that match children's interests and help them achieve their next steps in learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are very happy and form close bonds with the childminder. They are very keen to develop their independence skills and try new things. Children develop blossoming friendships with each other. They demonstrate a kind and caring nature, with older children inviting their younger friends to join them in games and activities. Children successfully learn to adopt healthy and safe lifestyles. The childminder provides nutritious and balanced meals and snacks to meet children's dietary needs. She makes sure that children have regular fresh air and exercise. They enjoy walks to and from school and visits to local parks and the beach.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who receive funding, make good progress in their learning and development. They develop good all-round physical skills. Children have fun participating in number games. They enjoy demonstrating how they can write their name with chalk on the blackboards outside. Children are effectively supported to become independent and less reliant on adults. This helps them develop important skills in readiness for starting nursery or school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY470573
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	1042584
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	12
Number of children on roll	12
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	9 June 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2013 and lives in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant. She receives funding for the provision of early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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