

Childminder Report

Inspection date	4 November 2016
Previous inspection date	7 March 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
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 experienced childminder understands how children learn and develop. She regularly monitors their progress and completes accurate assessments to inform her planning for the next stage of their learning. All children make good progress.
- The childminder provides an attractive, welcoming and well-organised environment where children can independently access and choose their own toys and resources for their play. Children are gaining good independence skills, in preparation for their future learning.
- The childminder helps promote the development of children's language and communication skills effectively, through conversations and discussions as they play.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. The childminder regularly provides parents with a good range of information about their children's experiences and development, both verbally and in written reports. Parents contribute to their children's progress records.
- Children behave well. They listen carefully to the childminder and are aware of her expectations of them. The childminder provides praise and encouragement which helps to build children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The childminder establishes effective two-way exchanges of information with other early years settings, to help support children's good development and progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Opportunities for children to develop further their good understanding of early mathematics are not always supported as well as possible.
- The childminder has not fully explored ways to further enhance her programme of professional development, in order to extend her teaching skills and knowledge to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to explore early mathematics, including size, shape and measure, during their everyday play
- enhance the programme of professional development to help extend teaching skills and knowledge to a higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a tour of the areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as the childminder's self-evaluation and evidence of the suitability of adults living on the premises.
- The inspector took into account the views of a small number of parents.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children, at appropriate times, throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection and knows what to do if she has concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder regularly checks her home, indoors and outside, including resources and equipment, to ensure they are clean, in good condition and suitable for children to use. The childminder supervises children well. The childminder gathers detailed information from parents about children's allergies. She uses this information to carefully plan menus to meet specific dietary requirements. This all helps to ensure that children play safely and any risks are minimised. The childminder takes into account the views of parents and children to help her reflect on the quality of her practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder gathers detailed information from parents to develop her understanding of each child from the start. Children delight in exploring their surroundings and the wide range of stimulating resources and activities provided. They are beginning to role play. Children excitedly pretend to bake cakes and pies from sand and soil in the outdoor kitchen. They use their senses to explore and investigate the materials. The childminder enthusiastically plays alongside them to extend and guide their learning. Children listen with concentration to stories and contribute to discussions about the pictures and what may happen next. They enjoy pouring pasta and dried pulses into plastic bottles to make shakers which they use to accompany their favourite song.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder has a comprehensive settling-in process that encourages parents to visit with their children before they start. Children are given time to develop a relationship with her and to become accustomed to new surroundings and routines. The childminder takes children out and about in the local community. This helps to widen their experiences and further develop their understanding of the world around them. The childminder helps children develop good social skills. One example of this is when she provides activities in small groups where children have to play cooperatively together and share resources. Children play outdoors on a daily basis and delight in investigating natural resources. They benefit from regular exercise and fresh air. Children are supported to develop healthy lifestyles and follow good hygiene routines. They are provided with nutritious meals and snacks and know why it is important to wash their hands before eating.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. They demonstrate strong communication skills and confidently talk about their ideas as they play. Children have good physical skills. They are becoming independent and enjoy the responsibility of carrying out small age-appropriate tasks. Children are happy, confident and demonstrate friendly behaviour to others. They are motivated and enthusiastic learners who are developing the skills and attitudes needed for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	550064
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1064238
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	7 March 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001 and lives in Peterlee, County Durham. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early years education for two- and three-year-olds.

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