

Childminder Report

Inspection date

10 November 2016

Previous inspection date

22 October 2013

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	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 improved her understanding of how to monitor and assess the progress children make in their learning. She has obtained support and guidance from her local authority advisor to help her make the required improvements.
- Children are exceptionally happy and confident in the care of the childminder. They are keen to be involved in the broad range of enjoyable and interesting activities on offer, and make good progress in their learning.
- Partnership working is very successful. The childminder works closely with parents and others involved in supporting children. They all frequently share information to help provide consistent support for children's care and learning.
- Children are very polite and behave well. They are respectful and sensitive to the needs of those around them, helping them to develop strong relationships.
- The childminder is calm, kind and caring. She provides a homely environment where children settle easily and feel secure.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder's professional development is not specifically focused on developing her knowledge and good teaching skills as much as possible to progress children's outcomes even further.
- The childminder sometimes intervenes and completes tasks for the children which they are capable of doing themselves.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more precisely on a programme of targeted professional development to raise the quality of teaching to extend children's learning and progress even further.
- provide more opportunities for children to complete simple personal care tasks for themselves, promoting their growing independence.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records and a sample of other documentation, including policies, procedures and the suitability of adults living in the home.
- The inspector took account of the written feedback from parents.
- The inspector looked at how the childminder has been improving her practice.

Inspector

Beverley Devlin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. She has a good awareness of how to keep children safe and ensures that their welfare is maintained. The childminder is very proactive in the way she supports children to learn about their own safety and takes effective action to minimise any hazards. This helps her care for children in a safe and secure environment. Parents appreciate the childminder's support for both their children and themselves and are grateful for her service. Communication with them is good, enabling an effective partnership for ensuring children's good care and development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder regularly observes and monitors children's development. She uses her observations and assessments to inform planning. There is a good range of toys easily accessible indoors and outside, enabling children to make choices about their play. The childminder joins in with children's play and extends their learning. She supports children's mathematical development well. For example, she helps their early counting skills as they line up their favourite dolls, and count the slices of peppers they each have for lunch. The childminder supports children to explore different textures. They use their hands to investigate the soil, sand and play dough, and show excitement as they pour and scoop water using various containers. Children are imaginative in their role play as they feed dolls, pretend to be doctors, using the stethoscope and giving pretend injections to make the doll better. The childminder promotes children's communication and language development very well. She uses effective listening skills and expands children's vocabulary by introducing words that relate to their play.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder offers a caring and friendly environment for children. They express their affection for her as they snuggle up to her when they occasionally require reassurance. The childminder is a good role model and has high expectations of children's behaviour which are clearly and consistently communicated to children. Children are confident and demonstrate that they feel safe and secure. Children learn about the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle. For example, they enjoy freshly prepared healthy meals and a wide range of opportunities outdoors, where they enjoy many walks and visits in the local community. They show good levels of self-control, cooperation and respect for others. Children develop their physical skills and learn to take risks during visits to the outdoor environment and places of interest.

Outcomes for children are good

Children gain the necessary skills to support their eventual move on to other settings. For example, they develop good vocabulary and communication skills, and learn to solve practical problems. Children learn to listen and follow instructions well. Children develop the confidence to mix with larger groups of children and adults. For example, the childminder takes them to local toddler groups to socialise with others.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY433721
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1043410
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 2
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	4
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	22 October 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2011. She lives in St. Albans, Hertfordshire. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The childminder operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Tuesday to Thursday, except for bank and family holidays.

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