

Childminder Report

Inspection date	15 February 2017
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 a good awareness of how young children learn and develop. She provides children with activities that match their interests and engage them well in their learning. Children are making good progress in relation to their abilities.
- Partnerships with parents are well established. Parents are happy with the care their children receive. The childminder understands the need to link strongly with other early years professionals.
- Children develop secure emotional attachments with the childminder. The childminder is patient, calm and caring. Children relate well to her.
- The childminder provides children with opportunities to develop their social skills. She takes children on a wide range of outings that helps them to learn about the wider community.
- Children behave well. The childminder has a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour. She promotes the use of good manners well. Children are learning to be kind and caring towards each other. They share and take turns.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder's reflections on her practice do not identify precise improvements that help raise the standards of provision to an outstanding level.
- The childminder does not consistently make the most of opportunities for children to hear and identify initial sounds and link these to letters and words.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the systems for reflection on practice to identify specific areas for improvements that help raise standards to an outstanding level
- enhance opportunities for children to listen to and identify initial sounds linked to letters and words to support the further development of their early literacy skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder is fully aware of the procedures she must follow in response to a concern about a child in her care. Positive steps are taken to minimise risks to children. Partnerships with parents are strong. An effective two-way sharing of information is firmly established. Parents value how well the childminder communicates with them about their children's progress. The childminder provides support for further learning at home. Overall, she places a strong emphasis on developing appropriate skills and refreshing her knowledge. The childminder has completed training focused on how to support all children to thrive and learn, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. The knowledge gained is used to strengthen her teaching and narrow any gaps in children's learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder thoughtfully and regularly observes children's play. She uses the resulting accurate assessments to inform her planning to follow individual children's interests and meet their learning needs. The childminder understands that children learn through play and skilfully guides their learning. She interacts effectively with children and sensitively asks questions to extend their learning. This helps them to listen and gain confidence in answering. Children benefit from a good range of resources and activities, both within the home and the community. They delight in decorating pots with paint and then planting seeds inside to grow pansies. This helps children to explore their creativity and develop their understanding about the world around them. Children enjoy playing musical instruments enthusiastically to accompany familiar songs and rhymes. They cooperate well together and join in singing and actions with their friends. This helps to prepare them well for their eventual move on to nursery and school.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy playing in a warm, welcoming and highly inclusive environment. Flexible settling-in procedures are agreed with parents to help promote children's confidence and self-esteem. The childminder meticulously gathers information about children's care needs and routines and uses this to ensure their individual needs are met very effectively. Children learn about healthy lifestyles. They follow thorough hygiene routines, benefit from healthy snacks, drinks and meals and take part in regular exercise. Children develop their physical skills when playing at the soft-play centre or at the park. Children are encouraged to respect each other's views, as they are supported to take turns in conversation. They enjoy independently accessing equipment and toys as they play.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making at least the expected progress in relation to their capabilities. They independently select activities that interest them and spend significant periods of time, in relation to their age and stage of development, concentrating on these. Children are becoming confident learners. Older children are developing early mathematical skills, including recognising shapes and counting. They are well prepared for their future learning and the eventual move on to nursery and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY489715
Local authority	Hartlepool
Inspection number	1014639
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2015 and lives in Hartlepool. She operates all year round, for up to 24 hours each day, except for family holidays.

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