

Childminder Report

Inspection date

16 August 2017

Previous inspection date

29 July 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 childminder knows the children in her care very well and offers an informal, relaxed approach to learning. She provides fun, high-quality learning experiences that reflect children's interests and individual learning needs. All children make good progress and acquire key skills for their next stage in learning.
- The childminder nurtures children's emotional well-being very well and they thrive in the welcoming, homely atmosphere. Children build extremely secure attachments to the childminder. She provides frequent praise and encouragement to help children recognise their achievements and boost their self-esteem. Children are kind, polite, well mannered and display good behaviour.
- The childminder has established very good relationships with parents. They regularly exchange information about children's learning and achievements. Parents comment that the childminder provides an excellent start to their children's lives, supporting them to grow, make progress and develop in to happy and independent children.
- The childminder continually reflects on the quality of her provision to help her identify how she can improve outcomes for children. She proactively attends training, sharing knowledge gained with her assistant so that they keep up to date with new legislation and good practice guidance.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There is scope for the childminder to build on her already good outdoor activities at the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to extend the already good opportunities for children to learn and explore outdoors.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact that this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection. She evaluated a focused activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and children's records. She discussed the childminder's policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the childminder, her assistant and other household members.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents provided through written testimonials.

Inspector

Lindsey Cullum

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder is passionate about her role, is well organised and has the best interests of the children at heart. She works closely with an assistant, utilising each other's strengths and skills well to support children's individual needs. The childminder manages her assistant's performance well through regular support and discussions to share ideas and decide how to enhance the provision for children. For example, they are introducing more natural materials following training and are involving the children in collecting some of these during outings. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a secure knowledge of the possible signs and symptoms of child abuse and the wider issues surrounding child protection. She understands her responsibility to safeguard children, maintains a safe and secure environment and is vigilant in her supervision of children. Clear policies and procedures underpin her good practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder gets to know the children very well through regular observations and accurate assessments of what children can do. This enables her to plan activities around children's interests that build on their knowledge and skills. She gets down to the children's level and joins in their play with enthusiasm to promote their enjoyment and motivation to learn. Children concentrate well as they become absorbed in play with 'moon dust'. They handle tools, such as spoons, with increasing control as they scoop and transfer. The childminder listens to children and responds to their thoughts and ideas, encouraging them to test these out and solve problems during their play. She introduces mathematical language and encourages children to predict how many more they will need to fill a container. Children are highly imaginative. They make meaningful marks with chalks or crayons, helping to develop their small-muscle skills in preparation for early writing. They show a real enjoyment of books and stories, listening attentively.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder helps children to feel confident, independent and self-assured. She is very attentive to their needs, meaning that children are happy, settled and emotionally secure in their surroundings. She is an excellent role model for children and treats them with the utmost kindness and respect. The childminder regularly attends community groups with the children and takes them on outings, for example, to the woods, beach and local places of interest. This helps extend their confidence and social skills as they meet with other adults and children.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are enthusiastic learners who are proud of their achievements. They are supported very well to embrace new experiences with confidence, such as moving on to new settings. Children recognise shapes and colours and show their growing confidence in using numbers and letters. They show high levels of independence and manage their self-care needs very well. Children develop good social skills. They are confident communicators, make decisions and share their views.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY395370
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	1065396
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	10
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	29 July 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Lowestoft, Suffolk. She works with an assistant for three days per week. The childminder operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate qualification at level 3 and is a registered forest care provider. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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