

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 November 2017

Previous inspection date

2 September 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 provides a wide range of stimulating activities that meet children's individual interests. She adapts her home to incorporate inviting environments, such as a cosy area with colour changing lights where children can relax, look at books and complete puzzles.
- The childminder is committed to developing her knowledge and skills. She regularly completes training and shares good practice with other childminders. Recent training has increased her knowledge of providing an even wider range of activities to promote children's creative skills.
- Children demonstrate that they feel confident and happy in the childminder's care. They welcome visitors to join in with their play. Children sit close to the childminder as she reads them their favourite stories and they frequently give her a cuddle.
- Children enjoy a wealth of interesting outings in the local community, this helps enhance their understanding of the world. They learn about life cycles during visits to zoos and discover how canal locks are operated during riverside walks.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder gathers detailed information from parents about their child's learning on entry, she does not make the best possible use of this to precisely inform planning from the outset.
- The childminder does not consistently provide children with opportunities to think of their own ideas and ways of solving problems, in order to develop their thinking skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the best possible use of the initial information sought from parents to precisely inform early planning
- enhance opportunities for children to identify and solve problems for themselves.

Inspection activities

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

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a secure understanding of possible signs that could indicate that children are at risk of harm. She knows how to take swift action, in order to protect children's welfare in the event of a child protection concern. The childminder regularly reflects on the service she provides, seeking the views of parents and children. This ensures that she acts effectively to address any areas for improvement. The childminder carefully reviews children's progress to swiftly address any gaps in their learning. Parents are delighted with the service that the childminder provides. They regard her as an extension of their own family.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder places a strong emphasis on promoting children's language skills. For instance, she speaks clearly and consistently describes her own and children's actions. Children develop the small muscles in their hands in preparation for writing. For example, they transfer dried rice from one container to another and use large tweezers to pick up objects. The childminder's sense of fun helps children to be highly motivated and inquisitive individuals who are keen to learn. Children eagerly join in with songs that help them to learn the sequence of the days of the week. They use magnifying glasses to look closely at grains of rice and discover how the rice changes in size as they move the magnifying glasses further away from their eyes. Children concentrate for long periods of time given their young age. They build tall towers using cotton reels, spreading a mixture of shaving foam and glue between each cotton reel, to help them to stick together.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder is a positive role model. Children develop good relationships with each other. They happily share toys and spontaneously use manners when speaking. Children demonstrate a real sense of responsibility. For instance, they eagerly help the childminder to pick up the spilt rice from the floor. Children's artwork is displayed within the childminder's home helping them to feel a sense of belonging. Regular visits to local parks and soft-play centres help children to develop good physical skills. They learn how to climb and balance on a varied range of apparatus and equipment.

Outcomes for children are good

All children are making good progress in their learning given their starting points. They identify numbers and make predictions. Children line up toy cars on a slope and guess which one will travel the furthest. They develop good independence, children remove their own shoes and push their sleeves up prior to washing their own hands. They recognise their own name and are beginning to link letters to the sounds that they represent. They gain the skills needed to help prepare them for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY321056
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1064834
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	2 September 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3.

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