

Childminder Report

Inspection date

5 January 2018

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

- Children are happy in the childminder's care. They settle quickly, enjoy playing with their favourite toys and develop new ideas and interests through the activities prepared by the childminder. Children behave well.
- Children learn to be independent. The childminder gives them time to complete simple tasks on their own, such as threading 'pirate necklaces', which helps to develop their confidence and eagerness to learn.
- The childminder supports children's communication and language skills effectively. For example, she plays a variety of games and uses opportunities when they are out in the local area to extend children's language and very early reading, such as sounding out letters on road signs.
- Partnerships with parents and other providers and professionals are effective. The childminder constantly exchanges information to help ensure that they all work together consistently to support children's all-round needs, such as language development.
- The childminder continues to develop her knowledge and skills effectively. This helps her to provide new ways of meeting children's individual needs, such as increasing their communication skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always make the most of spontaneous opportunities to extend children's emerging awareness of mathematical ideas, especially shapes and counting.
- There are fewer opportunities for children to explore and investigate nature and the natural world in their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on opportunities to extend children's mathematical awareness, especially with regard to shapes and counting
- enhance opportunities for children to explore and investigate nature and natural resources in their learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children playing in different learning environments independently and with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to children at appropriate times during the inspection and considered parents' views by reading written testimonials.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder about how she manages her setting and plans for children's progress and development.
- The inspector sampled a range of documents, including children's records, training records and policies.

Inspector

Tristine Hardwick

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder confidently recognises potential signs and symptoms that may indicate risks to children's welfare. She completes child protection training regularly and ensures she has up-to-date contact numbers of relevant professionals. This enables her to report any concerns promptly, if necessary. The childminder is vigilant and maintains children's safety at all times. For example, she supervises children well as they play outside and completes ongoing risk assessments to ensure all spaces continue to be safe for children. Self-evaluation is effective. The childminder knows how to identify areas for development and has plans in place to help her ensure she continues to achieve good outcomes for children. For example, she plans to continue developing the provision for children in the garden.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder uses a range of teaching techniques to help children to learn and make progress. She maintains a good balance between adult-led and child-led activities, supporting children's interests effectively as they learn. For example, after taking turns to hide 'pirates' treasure', children and the childminder explore the 'treasure' of letters and then sound them out, to help build very early reading skills. The childminder completes ongoing observations and assessments of children's progress, to help her ensure they continue to move on in their development and so that she can close any gaps in learning. Her planning takes account of children's interests as well as their developmental needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder is a positive role model. She forms close bonds with children, who show they settle well and are happy in her care. For instance, they seek spontaneous cuddles from her. The childminder consistently praises their achievements and supports their sense of self-esteem and eagerness to achieve. For example, while children search for 'treasure', she encourages them to think, 'is it under here? Over there? Where can it be?' and includes fun and excitement effectively in their learning. Children enjoy developing their interests and explore new ideas through new activities prepared each day by the childminder. For example, they use small tools, such as a hole-punch, to help them make a 'pirate necklace'. Children concentrate well and develop positive attitudes to learning.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. They develop very early reading skills and learn to use equipment to form letters. Children enjoy being physically active, such as in the garden, and understand the importance of meeting their own personal hygiene needs, such as washing their hands. Children are creative and learn to use their imagination successfully, such as making up games. They enjoy activities across all areas of learning and are prepared well for their eventual move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY495817
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1034368
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Age range of children	3 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2015 and lives in Plymouth, Devon. She offers care every day from 7.30am until 6.30pm, all year round, except for public holidays. The childminder receives funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The childminder is qualified to level 3 in childcare and education.

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