

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 January 2018

Previous inspection date

23 August 2017

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 experienced childminder has successfully addressed the actions and recommendations raised at the previous inspection. For example, she has increased the security of her home to prevent unauthorised persons from entering.
- Children build strong bonds with the childminder. They express their affection for her as they blow her a kiss, and laugh together as they play.
- Children enjoy many interesting outings in the local community with the childminder to help enhance their understanding of the world. They learn about different types of wildlife, such as insects and squirrels, during regular nature walks in the woods. Children closely examine insects using magnifying glasses and observe how they move.
- The childminder is committed to developing her knowledge and skills. She regularly completes training, uses the internet to research for relevant information and shares good practice with other childminders. Recent training has increased her knowledge of providing an even wider range of activities to enhance children's physical skills.
- The childminder provides stimulating activities that meet children's individual interests and help them to make good progress. She skilfully responds to spontaneous events, such as children's interest in a large lorry that they notice outside.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Occasionally, the childminder does not provide children with increased opportunities to solve mathematical problems.
- The childminder does not obtain detailed enough information about children's learning on entry from their parents, to fully support her planning from the outset.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for children to solve simple mathematical problems
- extend on the level of initial information obtained from parents, to plan more precisely for children's continued progress from the outset.

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 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 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 children are at risk of harm. She knows how to take swift action to protect children's welfare in the event of a concern. The childminder thoroughly reflects on the service she provides, seeking the views of parents and children. She has made focused changes to her practice that benefit the children. The childminder carefully reviews children's progress to address any gaps in learning swiftly. Secure partnerships with other providers that children attend help the childminder to meet children's needs consistently. Parents compliment the childminder on the level of care and professionalism that she offers to their children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are motivated and demonstrate a positive approach to learning. They confidently explore their environment and select their choice of toys and activities from the varied range available. Children explore which toy cars roll smoothly down the spiral ramp on the garage. They work out that if they gently shake the top of the ramp the cars travel quickly on their own, without needing a push. The childminder places a strong emphasis on supporting children's early language skills. For instance, she introduces them to the meaning of new words, such as 'reverse', and sensitively promotes the correct pronunciation of the words children try to say. The childminder provides children with many opportunities to develop the small muscles in their hands in readiness for writing. For instance, they carefully thread laces through holes in picture cards and use small tools to make their own play dough.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder is a positive role model. Children spontaneously use manners when speaking and demonstrate a real sense of responsibility. For instance, they happily help the childminder to tidy away the toys they have finished playing with. Weekly visits to organised groups with the childminder enable children to meet with other children to develop their social skills. Children regularly visit a working farm. They pick different fruits from bushes and plants to taste with the childminder. This helps them to learn where food comes from and that it is good to eat. Daily access to the childminder's garden and visits to local parks help children to develop good physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in their learning given their starting points. They develop the skills to be independent. For instance, they put their shoes on the correct feet, manage their own personal needs and persevere to fasten the zip on their coat. Children recognise their own names. They are beginning to link letters to the sounds that they represent. Children gain the skills needed to help prepare them for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123909
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1112976
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	4
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	23 August 2017
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1996 and lives in Hertford. She operates all year round from 7.30am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder receives funding for three- and four-year-old children.

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