

Childminder Report

Inspection date	11 January 2018
Previous inspection date	13 October 2014

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 has a good understanding of the early years foundation stage. She knows each child very well and uses their interests to encourage and support their learning.
- The childminder monitors children's development effectively. She maintains a good overview of their progress, enabling her to quickly identify any gaps in their learning. Children make good progress in all areas of learning from their starting points.
- The childminder develops strong links with local nurseries and schools to share information about children's progress and well-being.
- Children settle easily and develop a strong attachment with the childminder. They are happy and content in her care.
- The childminder establishes positive relationships with parents. They are well informed about their child's progress and activities. Parents speak highly about the service the childminder provides.
- Children's behaviour is good. The childminder praises children frequently and children develop high levels of self-esteem.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not recently targeted professional development opportunities to raise her teaching skills to an even higher level.
- During adult-led activities, children do not always have enough opportunities to explore, investigate and develop their natural curiosity.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on professional development opportunities and focus more precisely on developing an expert knowledge of teaching and learning
- extend the opportunities children have to explore and investigate during adult-led activities.

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 a selection of relevant documentation.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector

Melanie Vincent

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder understands her role and responsibilities to protect children. She is aware of the signs and symptoms that would give her cause for concern about a child's welfare. The childminder understands the procedures to follow to report any such worries. She has completed training to help ensure her knowledge of how to protect children is up to date and includes current legislation. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder checks the environment on a daily basis to ensure it remains a safe place for children to play. She evaluates and monitors her provision, and takes effective action when she identifies areas where further support is needed. The childminder seeks the views of parents and regularly reflects on the provision to make improvements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder uses observations of children's learning effectively to identify and plan for what children need to learn next. Children eagerly take part in a wide variety of activities. The childminder provides children with many opportunities to be creative. Children concentrate well and they become absorbed in making and decorating binoculars. They handle tools, such as scissors, with increasing physical control as they cut and join materials. The childminder successfully promotes children's language and communication skills. For example, she sits with children as they play, introducing new vocabulary and repeating words back to them. The childminder encourages children to have a strong interest in stories. Children eagerly point out pictures and words in books, and confidently retell their favourite stories using actions and repeated words and phrases.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder gathers appropriate information about children's care, routines and interests from parents when they first start. She has a calm and nurturing approach and children settle very quickly into her care. Children play happily in a homely environment and are confident to make choices and decisions. The childminder encourages children to follow good hygiene practices. She provides children with nutritious meals, snacks and drinks, and develops children's understanding of healthy lifestyles. The childminder supports children effectively to develop independence. Children have regular opportunities to attend local groups. They develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem as they socialise with other children and adults. Children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, such as starting nursery or school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children demonstrate good levels of concentration and enthusiasm as they play. They eagerly participate in small-group activities and follow daily routines. Their ability to listen, maintain attention and follow instructions is developing very well. Children communicate well and express themselves effectively. They develop good mathematical knowledge and confidently count, recognise colours and compare sizes. They use their imaginations well, for instance, when they play tea parties with dolls.

Setting details

Unique reference number	313615
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1103628
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 7
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	13 October 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1996 and lives in the Blackhill area of County Durham. She cares for children from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3. She receives funding for the provision of early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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