

Childminder Report

Inspection date

17 January 2018

Previous inspection date

29 April 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

- Children settle extremely well in this homely environment. They form healthy relationships with the childminder and her assistant. This helps them to develop emotionally and become confident learners. Children's behaviour is managed well and they learn about rules and boundaries.
- Daily discussions and the sharing of children's information mean parents receive regular updates about their children's learning. The childminder supports the children well to guide their learning successfully at home.
- The childminder makes good use of local facilities to extend the range of learning experiences for children. For example, children regularly visit nature reserves, farms and toddler groups. As a result, children's social skills and their awareness of the world around them are promoted well.
- The childminder's dedication and hard work help to create a happy, stimulating and inviting environment. Both her and her assistant's interactions with children support their play and learning well.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- There are not enough opportunities for the most able children to link sounds to letters and build on their good literacy skills.
- Although the childminder strives to keep her knowledge and skills up to date, she does not focus her professional development sharply enough on raising the quality of her teaching to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- extend opportunities for the most able children to learn to link sounds and letters that further enhance their good literacy skills
- focus professional development more robustly on raising the quality of teaching to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors 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 and her assistant. 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.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistant ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding knowledge and have a good understanding of their role to keep children safe at all times. The childminder works closely with her assistant to supervise her practice. They work very well as a team and regularly exchange relevant information, such as observations of children's learning. The childminder organises her service well and all documents to support the effective operation of her setting are fully in place. She reviews her provision regularly, reflecting on her practice and striving for continual improvement. The childminder understands the importance of maintaining professional relationships with other local settings. She recognises her role in working together with other professionals to promote continuity in children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children thrive in this stimulating home-from-home environment. The childminder is well organised and manages her space and resources successfully to enable children to freely make choices in their play. The childminder and her assistant observe children and gain a good overview of their development and progress. They successfully identify ways to challenge and extend their learning further. The childminder demonstrates effective teaching through skilfully asking lots of questions. For example, as children make bird feeders, she introduces them to new words and ideas. Children benefit from good interactions and are keen to achieve. They enjoy using their imagination as they play with dolls in the home corner. The childminder supports mathematical learning. She helps children to count, make comparisons about size and use positional language.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder promotes children's emotional and physical well-being effectively. She works closely with parents and gains information from them to help her determine children's starting points. The childminder provides ongoing feedback about children's progress. She gives frequent praise and encouragement to children. Healthy lifestyles are promoted well. Children demonstrate their understanding of hygiene routines. For example, they wash their hands before eating or after messy play. Children are regularly taken on visits to local places of interests so they can learn about the wider world.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good rates of progress and are working within the expected levels for their age. They learn to master a range of skills in preparation for their future learning and eventual move to school. Children are confident, individual learners who are eager to explore and discover. They concentrate for long periods on activities that capture their attention and help to build their small-muscle skills in readiness for early writing.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY438049
Local authority	Thurrock
Inspection number	1065789
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	10
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	29 April 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2012. She lives in Langdon Hills, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant. She receives funding for the provision of early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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