

Childminder Report

Inspection date

23 January 2018

Previous inspection date

4 November 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 well-qualified childminder has a secure understanding of how young children learn and develop. She uses regular observations and accurate assessments of children's learning, to help her plan a range of stimulating activities. Children make good progress.
- The childminder shows a strong commitment to improving the quality of her provision. She reflects on the effectiveness of all aspects of her practice to inform planning for improvements. For example, she regularly reviews and updates the use of her resources to help extend children's learning.
- The caring childminder has developed very positive relationships with children. They enjoy playing with her and are happy and settled. The childminder offers children frequent praise for their efforts and achievements. Children use very good manners and behave well at all times.
- Children enjoy frequent outings into the wider community, including to local playgroups, schools and shops. They learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and make new friends.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder works well with parents, she has not fully explored how she can offer all parents specific support to extend children's learning at home.
- The childminder does not consistently name everyday objects correctly when speaking to children, to support their good language skills even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- build on strategies that support parents to extend their children's learning and development at home, to help children make even better progress
- strengthen use of the correct terms for everyday objects, to help support the development of children's communication and language skills even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed teaching activities and assessed the impact of these on the quality of children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluated activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including evidence of the suitability of adults living on the premises.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the visit, and provided in written feedback.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder knows how to identify, and respond to, any signs of abuse. She prioritises keeping children safe in her home and during outings into the community. For example, she carries out regular checks of her home, helping her to minimise any potential hazards. She carefully implements a range of policies and procedures that help to support her good practice. The childminder meets regularly with other childminders and local authority advisers, to share ideas and help update her knowledge. She understands the need to work with other early years professionals, nurseries and schools that children in her care attend. The childminder uses her regular observations and assessments to help her swiftly identify and address any gaps in children's learning successfully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The well-qualified childminder uses effective teaching strategies. She gets down to the children's level to engage them in conversations, and gives them plenty of time to think and respond to questions. The childminder uses skilful questioning to reinforce and extend children's learning, and to encourage them to solve problems for themselves. Children have fun exploring and investigating a range of materials, using all of their senses. They enjoy practising their skills, for example, when they carefully weave pipe cleaners and straws through holes in a colander. The childminder skilfully supports the development of children's early mathematical skills. For example, she helps them to compare different sizes of model vehicles, and to count the numbers of cars and trains available.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children thrive in the childminder's warm and welcoming home. The childminder closely follows children's individual routines and gets to know them very well from the start. She discusses children's likes and dislikes with parents to help promote their general welfare. Parents value the care and support that the childminder provides. Children make choices freely during play activities, and express their preferences confidently. They understand the childminder's high expectations of them. For example, young children are extremely polite and cooperative. They happily help to tidy away toys. Children enjoy regular outdoor activities, including walks to places of interest. This helps promote their good health and physical skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are developing a range of skills that will support them in their future learning, including the eventual move to nursery and school. They are enthusiastic learners, who are eager to try out new activities. Children concentrate for significant periods of time, relative to their ages. They have regular opportunities to socialise with others, and to form firm friendships. Children are confident and show a positive sense of self-esteem. Young children are learning to look after themselves, for example, by taking off their own shoes and wiping their noses with tissues.

Setting details

Unique reference number	313695
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	1103633
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2000 and lives in County Durham. She operates all year round from 7.45am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3.

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