

Childminder Report

Inspection date

21 May 2018

Previous inspection date

6 August 2015

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 make good progress relative to their starting points. The childminder monitors children's progress well, and her effective observations, assessments and tracking help her to identify and address any gaps in their learning.
- Children are happy and confident and show high levels of self-esteem. They have very good relationships with the childminder and her assistants. Children show through their good behaviour that they feel emotionally secure, and are caring towards each other.
- The childminder works very well with parents and other professionals to support children who have special educational needs, to help them make good progress. She recognises the importance of partnership working and shares information well with other early years settings that children attend.
- The childminder's self-evaluation is effective in helping her identify areas for improvement, to maintain good-quality outcomes for children. For example, she has improved resources supporting early mathematics, and children now use these independently to build on what they know about number, shape, size and weight.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently ensure that activities that teach children how to use technology provide sufficient challenge for older children.
- Although the childminder shares information with parents about children's ongoing progress, she does not consistently involve them in identifying what their children already know and can do when they first start to attend her setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more challenge for older children as they learn to use technology for different purposes
- involve parents more consistently in identifying what their children already know and can do when they first attend the setting.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and her assistants engaged in learning activities with children, indoors and outside.
- The inspector talked to the childminder, her assistants and the children, and read feedback from parents.
- The inspector sampled required records, including safeguarding procedures, and talked to the childminder and her assistants about how they implement these.
- The inspector talked to the childminder about how she monitors children's progress and plans for future learning.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder provides good professional support to her assistants. She focuses well on developing their knowledge and skills, as well as her own, to continue to improve children's learning experiences. The childminder uses professional networks and online resources effectively to bring fresh ideas into her practice. For example, finding unusual experiments that help children explore ideas such as what dissolves in water and what does not. These activities particularly engage older children, developing their interest in finding out more about how things change. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistants have a good understanding of local safeguarding procedures. They know what to do to help protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder plans very well to make sure children of different ages enjoy challenging activities that engage them well. She uses her strong communication skills very effectively to extend children's learning. For example, when children used the balance scales to compare the weight of a variety of objects, she encouraged them to explain how they would know when the weight was the same. Children confidently used mathematical language such as 'heavier' and 'lighter'. The childminder encouraged babies to repeat the colours of the balls they played with, and she reinforced this well later, asking them to bring her the green ball and the blue ball, which they did. The childminder promotes children's literacy very well. For example, she encouraged older children to use their good knowledge of letters and sounds to identify which item of post belonged to each household member.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children of all ages enjoy being active. For example, older children concentrated hard as they pumped their legs backwards and forwards to keep the swings going without adult help, controlling for themselves how high they went. Younger children threw balls and laughed as they raced to get to them first. Children's safety awareness is good. They understand how accidents can happen and how they can avoid them. For example, toddlers, as well as older children, are careful not to walk close to the swings when these are in use.

Outcomes for children are good

Children learn good skills that prepare them well for their next stage in learning, including going to school. For example, they regularly meet up with other childminders and children, providing them with good opportunities to develop their social skills. This particularly benefits older children due to go to school, for instance, as they learn to listen and pay attention when part of a larger group. Children are independent and keen to do things for themselves. For example, babies help to slice up bananas for their snack, and toddlers carefully pour their own milk from the small, easy-to-handle jugs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141924
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	1127135
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	7
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	6 August 2015
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1993. She lives in Bridgwater, Somerset. The childminder provides care Monday to Thursday from 7.45am to 6.15pm all year round. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The childminder works with assistants.

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