

Childminder Report

Inspection date

20 June 2018

Previous inspection date

6 June 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

- When children start, the childminder and her assistants take time to learn about each child's care needs and abilities. They use this information to help them plan an environment where children are welcomed and supported from the outset.
- Children make good progress and are supported to develop the skills they need for the next stage in their learning and their eventual move to school.
- The childminder is proactive in working with other professionals. For example, she liaises with the local school improvement officer to focus on supporting a smooth changeover for each child as they move on to primary school.
- The childminder reflects on the service she provides. She listens to parents, children and her assistants' views in order to help her develop new ideas or alter existing practice. Recently, the childminder has made improvements to the provision of meals to extend variety for children attending at different times.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On occasion, the childminder and her staff do not challenge children, as far as possible, to explore numbers through addition and subtraction.
- The current system of performance management review is not consistently focused to specifically support staff in raising their level of practice even higher.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for older and the most able children to explore mathematical concepts
- extend the use of more targeted professional development opportunities to strengthen staff's existing knowledge and teaching skills further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector jointly evaluated an observation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with children and the assistants at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of all persons living in the household. The inspector discussed with the childminder how she reflects on her practice.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through feedback discussions during the inspection and information they have shared with the childminder.

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a very good understanding of child protection issues. She knows what action to take to protect the children in her care from harm. In addition, the childminder has ensured that her assistants have completed relevant safeguarding training. They understand how to recognise and report signs of abuse without delay. A good range of policies and procedures is in place and understood by the childminder and her assistants. These are shared with parents and implemented in practice to support the smooth, daily management of the setting.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder makes effective observations of each child's learning and monitors their progress to highlight any gaps. If these occur, the childminder works with parents to share ideas about how to close the gaps as quickly as possible. The childminder has good relationships with other professionals, enabling her to seek further support for families as required. The childminder plans children's next steps for learning, taking into account their developing interests. Children enjoy the challenge of using simple technology. They collaborate as they work out the best way to complete matching games. Children explore their knowledge of familiar farm and zoo animals during board games. They thoroughly enjoy identifying which nose or beak belongs to each animal, showing their very good imagination and emerging sense of humour, as they experiment mixing these up. They have fun guessing what their new animal might be called, such as a 'moo-hippo'.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children show care and consideration towards each other. They share toys and show their developing understanding about staying safe. When using the slide, children wait for the child in front of them to move away before taking their turn. The childminder and her assistants help children to learn about remaining healthy. They chat with them about the types of food that are good and those that are not so good. Children are taught about the effects of sugary drinks on their teeth. Older children demonstrate their increasing understanding as they confidently tell the childminder that 'fizzy drinks are yucky for your teeth'. Children enjoy plenty of opportunities to develop their physical skills. They use large outdoor equipment that helps to promote their coordination, balance and muscle strength.

Outcomes for children are good

Children become confident communicators. They understand the protocols of conversations and show self-assurance in making their voice heard and understood. Children develop the physical skills required to independently manage their personal needs. All children make very good progress from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	202616
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1135473
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	6 June 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1998. She lives in Braintree. The childminder operates all year around, from 7am to 6.30pm from Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with two assistants.

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