

Childminder report

Inspection date	16 August 2018
Previous inspection date	15 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The childminder has a welcoming manner and a lively rapport with the children. Children feel very comfortable and confident with her and this helps them to develop good relationships with one another. Behaviour is very good.
- Children have fun learning and this helps them to concentrate for lengthy periods. They become engrossed in a range of stimulating activities.
- The childminder makes good use of conversation in every activity. She varies her questions to extend children's understanding and gives children time to work their ideas through before guiding or assisting them.
- Children experience a range of physical activities. They are encouraged to take risks safely and to assess levels of safety for themselves.
- The childminder seeks out ideas and developments in childcare through a network of professionals to improve outcomes for children.
- The childminder discusses children's abilities with parents when children first join her setting. She knows exactly what each child can do and what interests them. She reviews and monitors children's progress and uses the information to inform her planning. All children make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not sharply focus her professional development on enhancing the quality of teaching to the highest levels.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the programme of professional development to consistently raise knowledge and teaching skills to the highest levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's setting and the impact her teaching has on children's development.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the children when appropriate.
- The inspector carried out an evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's self-evaluation, risk assessments, policies and procedures. She looked at a range of other relevant documentation.
- The inspector looked at questionnaires and spoke with a range of parents during the inspection. She took account of their views.

Inspector

Liz Kissane

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder has good knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities to meet all the statutory requirements. She has clear and comprehensive safety procedures which she follows closely to promote children's safety. She is alert to any signs that children may be at risk of harm and knows how to report any concerns. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder regularly evaluates her provision and seeks to make improvements. Following her latest evaluation, children have become more involved in decision-making. For example, they now contribute ideas to weekly teatime menus. Parents appreciate the childminder's methods and practice. They praise the high level of care and attention she gives their children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children are eager to investigate and enjoy the many varied activities on offer. Young children learn about shape and space, for example, through exploring different sized containers. Older children use and identify different shaped blocks to build bridges. Children of all ages play board games together. They discuss what makes the game work. They explain rules and follow them. In a game about 'payday', they learn about money as they count out notes and begin to compare their value. Young children learn to operate dials and handles on toys, which helps to develop their hand muscles in readiness for holding a pencil. The childminder provides a variety of good-quality resources to help children make patterns and marks on paper. Children learn to write their names.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Parents praise the childminding service as 'a family'. The childminder plays with the children and gives them regular and meaningful praise. Children feel good about themselves, and even the youngest gain confidence very quickly. The childminder provides a range of equipment to match their different needs. For example, even very young children take part in making fruit and vegetable kebabs safely at snack time. The childminder encourages older children who are reluctant readers to read to younger children and they clearly enjoy doing this. The childminder promotes healthy lifestyles, ensuring daily exercise and fresh air.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, make good progress. They are motivated learners who enjoy a challenge. From a young age they learn to handle books. They are gaining good literacy skills as they listen to the sounds that letters represent in words. Children are beginning to link what they read to the world around them. All children are well prepared for pre-school and school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	222004
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10060746
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	15 May 2014

The childminder registered in 1993 and lives in Bar Hill, Cambridge. She works from 7.30am to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, for most of the year. She provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

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