

Childminder report

Inspection date	5 September 2018
Previous inspection date	29 July 2015

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

- Children have warm and caring relationships with the childminder and her assistants. They play confidently in the childminder's care and demonstrate a good sense of belonging.
- The childminder supports children's growing language and literacy skills well. She and her assistants talk to the children during their play, teach them new words and engage them in interesting stories, songs and rhymes.
- Parents have formed warm and positive partnerships with the childminder. They speak highly of her and her assistants. They say their children's learning comes on in 'leaps and bounds'.
- The childminder effectively monitors children's development. She knows children well and understands what they need to do next in their learning. Children make good progress from their starting points.
- Children's physical health is promoted well. They visit local play areas, take part in sporting events and have daily opportunities for enjoyable vigorous workouts.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder's assistants attend mandatory training, there is less emphasis on professional development that helps them to extend their teaching skills.
- Opportunities are sometimes missed to encourage children to do things for themselves of which they are more than capable.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- support the childminding assistants to seek out professional development opportunities that help to extend their teaching skills, and children's learning, to a higher level
- make the most of opportunities for children to do things for themselves and help them to enhance all aspects of their independence.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the areas of the home used by children and the resources available to them.
- The inspector observed the activities and evaluated the quality of teaching and children's learning with the childminder. She spoke with the childminder, her assistants and children during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documents, including some policies and procedures, training information and children's records.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents through written feedback.

Inspector

Veronica Sharpe

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistants attend regular child protection training. They have a thorough understanding of the possible signs of abuse and the procedures to follow if they have concerns that a child is at risk. The childminder is conscientious about children's safety. She effectively risk assesses her home and checks play equipment to make sure it is safe. The childminder undertakes a variety of training courses to update her knowledge. For example, she has recently completed a course on data handling to help her to comply with changes to data protection legislation. The childminder evaluates the quality of the service she offers. She regularly uses surveys for parents and children so they can contribute their opinions and ideas.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides children with a broad range of enjoyable learning experiences that covers all the areas of learning. She is aware of children's individual interests and incorporates these into the activities. For example, there is a plentiful assortment of toy vehicles to support a particular child's fascination. Children move freely between the indoor and outdoor play areas, both of which are well resourced. The childminder skilfully promotes children's interest in numbers. She encourages them to count out loud and provides activities that use shapes, colours and sizes. Older children develop practical skills, such as using scissors to cut tissue paper for making collage pictures. The childminder keeps parents well informed about their children's progress through regular meetings and written summaries.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder works closely with parents to settle children into her setting. She gathers comprehensive information about children's needs and interests, and meets them well from the outset. The childminder and her assistants promote good behaviour. They speak to children and each other with respect, helping children to develop good manners. Children benefit from frequent outings into their local community. They visit local parks and play areas, and socialise with other children. The childminder encourages children to use the languages they hear at home, for example, as they read a story out loud in French.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need to help them to progress to the next stage of their learning. They interact well with each other and show they can share their toys. Older children recognise their names and write with confidence. Younger children enjoy practising their early writing as they make marks with paint and glue. Children have a positive attitude to learning. They ask questions and are keen to try out new activities, such as making 'rainbow fish'.

Setting details

Unique reference number	222383
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10062036
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	18
Date of previous inspection	29 July 2015

The childminder registered in 1994 and lives in Cambridge. She works with two childminding assistants. The childminder operates all year round. Session times are 7.30am to 5.30pm on Monday to Thursday and 7.30am to 6.30pm on Friday. The childminder offers funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3.

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