

Childminder report

Inspection date	22 October 2018
Previous inspection date	6 November 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 and her assistant have a good understanding of how children learn and develop. They plan interesting activities which motivate children to learn.
- Children make good progress in their learning. They develop the skills they need to prepare them for their future learning, including their move on to school.
- Children are settled, confident and happy in the setting. Their behaviour is good. The childminder and her assistant encourage children to use good manners, share and take turns while they play.
- The childminder and her assistant make regular and focused observations of children's achievements. They plan effectively for what children need to learn next.
- Overall, the childminder establishes positive relationships with parents. Parents are very well informed about their child's progress and activities. They speak highly about the service the childminder and her assistant provide.
- The childminder supports children who are learning to speak English as an additional language well. She works closely with parents to provide opportunities for children to hear and use their home language.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not recently targeted professional development opportunities to raise her teaching skills to an even higher level.
- The childminder does not gather detailed information from parents about their children's existing skills and abilities when they first start attending the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance the way in which professional development opportunities are used to help to raise the quality of teaching to an outstanding level
- gather more precise information from parents about what their children know and can do on entry to the setting to support and extend children's learning further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She evaluated an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector viewed the areas in the home used for childminding.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and her assistant. She looked at a selection of relevant documentation.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through the written feedback provided.

Inspector
Melanie Vincent

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistant have a good knowledge of how to protect children. They keep fully up to date with relevant information, such as current contact details and local procedures to ensure children are kept safe. The childminder is highly conscientious in ensuring the safety and supervision of children. She puts children's safety and well-being at the centre of everything she does. The childminder accurately evaluates her setting. She has clear plans for improvement and seeks the views of her assistant and parents to further develop her service. The childminder supports her assistant well to understand her responsibilities through regular supervisory meetings and appraisals. She works with other professionals and settings that children also attend to share information about children's development and complement their learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides children with many opportunities to be creative. Children concentrate well and they become engrossed in playing with dough. They handle tools, such as cutters with increasing physical control as they cut and join materials. The childminder effectively develops children's language. She speaks clearly to the children, gives them time to think and try new words. The childminder encourages children to develop their early literacy skills. Younger children are encouraged to recognise their name when they register their attendance. Older children are offered many opportunities to begin to form letters and write their names. The childminder plans daily opportunities for children to exercise and ensures that they have plenty of opportunities for outdoor play. The childminder and her assistant encourage children to develop their imaginations. Children engage in role play, and enjoy dressing up pretending to be a pirate and looking for hidden treasure.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder and her assistant form close bonds with children. They know the children very well and support their emotional well-being effectively. Children relish the praise and encouragement they frequently receive from the childminder and her assistant for their achievements. They develop high levels of self-esteem. The indoor and outdoor learning environment is motivating and very organised. Children know where to find their favourite toys and make many independent decisions about their play. The childminder encourages children to follow good hygiene practices and develops their understanding of healthy lifestyles. She provides children with nutritious meals, snacks and drinks.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are keen and enthusiastic learners. They communicate well and express themselves effectively. Children develop good mathematical knowledge and confidently count, recognise shapes and compare sizes. They are highly confident and very sociable. Young children are beginning to show independence in their self-care skills. They learn to wash their hands and feed themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY102298
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10069295
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	6 November 2014

The childminder registered in 2002 and lives in in Toft Hill, Bishop Auckland in County Durham. She operates all year round from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant and provides funded early education for children aged two, three and four years. She holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3.

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