

Childminder report

Inspection date	6 November 2018
Previous inspection date	17 March 2015

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 knows the children very well. She observes them as they play and identifies their next steps in learning. She provides a wide range of appropriately challenging activities to help children gain the skills and knowledge they need to prepare them for the move on to school. Children make good progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder works well in partnership with parents and other professionals. She establishes an effective two-way flow of information to provide children with continuity in their care and learning. Parents are very positive about the childminder.
- The childminder is experienced and well qualified. She has a strong understanding of how children learn and develop.
- Children establish strong bonds with the childminder. They demonstrate that they feel safe and secure in her care. They are confident to explore the environment and enjoy sharing their thoughts, ideas and discoveries with the childminder.
- Children learn how to keep themselves and each other safe. For instance, they describe in precise detail what to do in the event of a fire in the childminder's house. They learn about road safety when they go out and about with the childminder.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although the childminder attends regular mandatory training, she has not established an ambitious programme of professional development to support children to achieve at 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:

- focus professional development more precisely on raising the quality of teaching to an even higher level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector

Gail Warnes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder is dedicated to providing children with a safe environment where they learn and have fun. She provides parents with a good range of documentation which underpins her practice to promote children's safety, health and welfare. The childminder values the views of parents, children and other professionals to help her evaluate the effectiveness of her practice. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder confidently fulfils her role to protect children from harm. She knows what to do should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. She demonstrates a good understanding of wider safeguarding issues.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder knows the children very well. She follows children's lead in play, adapting activities to support children's individual stage of development and their emerging interests. Children are imaginative and enjoy role play. They put on fluorescent arm bands, communicate instructions to each other on walkie-talkies, using 'over' to indicate they have finished talking. They carefully plan a safe path to put out 'fires'. Children work together to complete jigsaw puzzles. The childminder asks questions to help them to position the pieces correctly. When the puzzle is completed, the children identify characters and objects in the picture, such as a clam and octopus. Children compare the lengths of modelling clay that they roll into sticks. They fashion mermaids and towers as they manipulate the clay. This helps children to develop the muscles in their hands to support early writing skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides a nurturing environment where children thrive. She gives children lots of praise for their efforts and achievements. They behave extremely well, showing high levels of self-control, and they develop good levels of self-esteem. The childminder is a superb role model for children. She calmly and consistently helps children to understand the impact of their actions on how other children feel, for instance, when they pretend to be dinosaurs. Children have good opportunities to learn about their local community. For example, they design and create a scarecrow for a local competition. The childminder regularly takes the children out to explore the natural environment in local parks and woods. They particularly enjoy building dens to play in. Children learn about healthy foods and lifestyles. They enjoy baking apple scones with the childminder, using apples from the tree in her garden.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points and capabilities. They gain good skills to support the next stage in their learning and the move on to school. Children are confident and active learners who are independent in their play and self-care routines. They are confident and animated talkers who recall past events they have enjoyed with the childminder. Children recognise the letters in their name and know the sounds letters represent. They accurately use numbers in play and add small numbers together. Children routinely share and take turns in play. They form firm friendships and enjoy sharing their experiences with each other.

Setting details

Unique reference number	260575
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10070109
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	3 - 7
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	17 March 2015

The childminder registered in 2001 and lives in Doddington, Cambridgeshire. She operates during school term time from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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