

Childminder report

Inspection date	11 December 2018
Previous inspection date	27 May 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- Arrangements to support children's transition into school are first class. The childminder skilfully plans times when children can visit their new school environment and engage in activities, such as taking their coat off and staying for short periods of time.
- Children make outstanding progress in their learning. Exceptional learning opportunities are provided, including for those children who prefer to learn outdoors. For instance, children access a greenhouse area where they access binoculars, large magnets and an extensive range of materials to make marks with.
- The childminder implements highly effective ways to track children's progress. This helps her to ensure children meet their developmental milestones and identify any potential learning gaps swiftly.
- Children behave exceptionally well for their age. The childminder and her assistant help them to begin to understand some age-appropriate boundaries in her home.
- Partnerships with parents are superb. Exceptional opportunities provided by the childminder keeps them updated with the progress their children make. Parents are delighted with the quality of learning experiences provided. They say their children 'really thrive' with the range of activities they engaged in, especially when they visit older residents of a local care home.
- Highly effective risk assessments ensure children access a safe environment. The childminder reviews any hazards that may happen, to prevent any possible reoccurrence.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to implement the excellent improvement plans that help provide even more fun and exciting learning opportunities for children to develop their early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors 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 and her assistant. 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
Nicola Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The well-qualified, experienced childminder creates an extremely high-quality provision where children are safe and thoroughly enjoy learning. She works alongside her assistants and students, who are supported exceptionally well to improve their skills and knowledge. Rich opportunities, such as regular observations and ongoing practice discussions, foster a culture of mutual support and teamwork. The childminder continuously reviews the quality of her provision. She is committed to accessing high-quality learning opportunities and uses this to reflect on the service she provides. The childminder develops excellent improvement plans, taking account of the views of parents and children. She plans to provide even more innovative and exciting learning opportunities to develop children's growing interest in early writing. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder ensures all assistants are very well versed and know how to respond to any concerns they may have about a child in their care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder provides exceptional support for children's communication and language skills. She plays alongside children as they explore and investigate toys and resources, modelling simple words and phrases for children to hear. Partnerships with external agencies, such as speech and language therapy services, are superb. The childminder is highly proactive in seeking parental permission and contacting services for children, if appropriate. Shared strategies help to support children's individual needs and helps to secure rapid progress. The childminder and her assistant provide consistently high levels of challenge to extend children's learning. They ask highly effective questions, such as, 'Will that brick balance on top?' and, 'Can you make a tower using 10 bricks?'

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder welcomes children into her friendly, highly stimulating home environment. They develop superb relationships with her, the assistant and other minded children. Very high levels of care are provided and children are supervised extremely well at all times. Children benefit highly from expert interactions with the childminder and her assistant and show extremely high levels of engagement. Very high-quality information is gathered from parents when children first start attending and during the child's time in the setting. The childminder uses this exceptionally well to provide continuity in children's emotional and physical well-being.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children consistently make high rates of progress in their learning. The skills they develop prepare them extremely well for when they start school. Younger children demonstrate a can-do attitude towards their learning. They show an interest in technology, giggling and laughing when they make the light on the toy truck flash. Older children express themselves effectively. They make comments such as, 'I can hear but cannot see the aeroplane in the sky. It's because of the clouds, if they were not there I could see it.'

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY400971
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10070257
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 9
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	20
Date of previous inspection	27 May 2015

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Crook, County Durham. She operates all year round from 6.45am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3 and works with two assistants.

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