

Childminder report

Inspection date	9 January 2019
Previous inspection date	27 July 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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

This provision is good

- The childminder and her assistant have recently attended additional training courses and received support from the local authority. This has resulted in significant improvements to the quality of the provision.
- The childminder and her assistant adopt a key-person system, which works effectively. They know the children very well and are acutely aware of their care routines. As a result, children are extremely settled and secure.
- The childminder and her assistant place a strong focus on promoting older children's skills in readiness for school. They provide plentiful opportunities for children to count, recognise numerals and identify shapes. This helps with their early mathematical development.
- The childminder and her assistant have a good understanding of how children learn. They use this knowledge to teach and engage children in a wide variety of activities. As a result, all children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Parents benefit from regular feedback from the childminder about their children's care and education.
- Although the childminder gathers detailed information from parents about their children before they start at the setting, she does not consistently make the best use of this information to fully inform children's starting points.
- The childminder promotes children's early writing skills by providing ample opportunities for mark making, but she does not consistently place enough focus on encouraging correct pencil grip during writing activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maximise the use of information gathered from parents to fully inform children's starting points
- strengthen the opportunities provided to develop children's early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and her assistant at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's self-evaluation.
- The inspector spoke to one parent and reviewed parents' questionnaires.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including children's progress files, assessment documents, policies and procedures and training records.

Inspector

Stephanie Nixon

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Since the previous inspection, the childminder and her assistant have worked hard at identifying areas for improvement, and they have acted quickly to make the required changes. The childminder has thought carefully about how to improve the learning environment and resources. For example, she has purchased wall-based activity boards, which children access independently. The changes made have significantly improved the quality of the learning opportunities available to children. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistant have recently completed further safeguarding training. This has equipped them with a good understanding of the signs and indicators of abuse, which helps them to keep children safe from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has recently completed a sensory play course. She has since been providing children with ample opportunities to develop their exploratory impulses and has provided exciting new play experiences. For example, older children recall how they watched a large block of ice melt to reveal a hidden toy polar bear. Younger children enjoy squeezing pouches containing foam and gel. Teaching is consistently good. The childminder supports her assistant to develop her teaching through the modelling of good practice and regular coaching. The childminder regularly makes observations of children to capture their achievements and identify their next steps in learning. The childminder and her assistant use this information well to plan challenging and creative activities that children thoroughly enjoy.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are happy and settled. They have close bonds with the childminder and her assistant, and they seek them out for comfort and cuddles. Babies' emotional needs are supported well. They snuggle up to the assistant to have their bottle of milk and settle down for a sleep with ease. Behaviour is good. The childminder and her assistant give children regular praise and encouragement, and children delight in being given stickers for tidying up. This helps to promote their developing independence skills. Children have ample opportunities for physical play. They have access to a well-resourced garden and attend weekly football sessions. Parents speak highly of the care their children receive and how happy they are to come to play.

Outcomes for children are good

The childminder has good links with local schools and has welcomed visits from teachers to meet the children. This partnership helps to prepare children for the next stage in their learning. In addition, children are developing a good variety of skills to support this transition. Older children are proud of their achievements as they identify and compare the features of shapes. They use their mathematical skills to count the number of sides required to draw rectangles. Younger children show great confidence in their abilities and listening skills. They listen to instructions to tidy up as they put toys away and use a toy vacuum to clean the carpets. The childminder has developed links with other professionals, including speech therapists, to gain support for children when required. As a result, all children are making good progress from their starting points.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY136517
Local authority	Oldham
Inspection number	10083969
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	20
Date of previous inspection	27 July 2018

The childminder registered in 2002 and lives in the Failsworth area of Oldham. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant qualification at level 3 and employs an assistant.

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