

Childminder report

Inspection date	5 February 2019
Previous inspection date	9 May 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Requires improvement	3
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 has made changes to improve her service since the last inspection. For example, she establishes consistently effective partnerships with parents. She uses information from parents to promote children's learning with her and at home. Parents value the regular outings that enable children to develop their social skills and understanding of the wider community.
- The childminder supports the development of children's communication and language skills well. For example, she provides an ongoing commentary during activities, which helps children to extend their vocabulary and understanding.
- Children's behaviour is good. The childminder encourages children to take responsibility for small tasks, for example tidying away toys after activities or dressing to go outside. Children develop polite manners and positive attitudes, treating one another with respect and kindness.
- The childminder has a calm, caring and affectionate approach to working with children. She interacts very positively with all children and they are happy, secure and motivated to learn. All children make good progress.
- The childminder does not consistently exchange information with other early years settings that children attend to support continuity in their learning.
- Although the childminder has introduced new systems for observation, assessment and planning, these are not yet fully embedded and reviewed to inform further positive changes.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance partnership working with all other early years settings that children attend, to further support continuity in children's learning
- embed and evaluate the new systems for observing, assessing and planning to identify how to support children's learning needs to the highest level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including policies, procedures and evidence of the suitability of the childminder.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers spoken to on the day and in written feedback.

Inspector

Cathryn Clarricoates

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder has taken action since the last inspection, including ensuring arrangements to store children's personal information are appropriate. She reflects on the quality of service she offers and takes account of the views of children and parents to inform planning for further improvements to her practice. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder ensures that she updates her knowledge and understanding of child protection. She is aware of her role and responsibilities, and knows who to contact should she have any concerns about a child in her care. The childminder regularly meets with others who have similar roles to share ideas. She completes training, for example, in managing behaviour, and uses this to make a positive impact on the outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder uses a variety of good teaching strategies to support children's learning. For example, she asks children questions and allows plenty of time for them to think and answer. The childminder frequently encourages children to practise their mathematical skills, such as when counting toy penguins and seals during a fun play activity. She introduces language to describe size, for instance, little and big, full and empty, as children pour water and imitation snow from small to large containers. Since the last inspection, the childminder has shared her planning for children's next steps with parents and she has plans to enhance this process further.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children arrive happily in the childminder's warm and welcoming home. They settle quickly and take the lead in their play. Children readily approach the childminder for cuddles and reassurance. The childminder provides plenty of praise and encouragement. She sets clear boundaries and reminds children about the simple, appropriate rules that help to keep them safe. Children demonstrate that they feel a sense of belonging and security. There are frequent opportunities for children to experience fresh air and exercise, and this supports their physical welfare. Children enjoy choosing from a selection of nutritious snacks and meals and develop positive attitudes to eating healthily. They follow good hygiene routines, such as washing their own hands before eating and after messy activities.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for their future learning, such as starting school. They are curious, inquisitive and eager to learn and problem solve at a young age. For example, they work out how many model snowballs they can fit into a cup. Young children maintain concentration for extended periods as they explore the properties of blocks of ice, using their different senses. Children have favourite stories and repeat words with the childminder. This helps children of all ages to develop their early literacy skills. Children show good independence skills and make firm friendships.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY388994
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10084936
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	9 May 2018

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Consett. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for three-year-old children.

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