

Childminder report

Inspection date	1 February 2019
Previous inspection date	25 June 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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children respond extremely well to the childminder's genuinely warm and reassuring approach. She offers a highly inviting, child-friendly indoor environment which children explore with superb levels of confidence and independence.
- Partnership working with parents and other early years practitioners is extremely successful and the childminder values their involvement. Children experience a highly consistent and nurturing approach to supporting their emotional needs and changing routines.
- The childminder makes detailed observations and assessments of children's development and plans effectively for their future learning. This helps to ensure that children continue to be challenged and make good progress from their starting points.
- The experienced childminder plans her ongoing professional development well. She works hard to source relevant training and research opportunities which help to enhance her teaching practice and further improve outcomes for children.
- The childminder does not always provide children who enjoy playing and learning outdoors with the best possible opportunities to enhance their thinking and skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enrich the range of activities for children who enjoy playing and learning outdoors, to extend their learning to the highest levels.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector observed an activity and jointly evaluated this with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents expressed in written testimonials.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including evidence of training, suitability of household members and the childminder's self-evaluation.

Inspector
Sarah Clements

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder attends regular safeguarding training and maintains a thorough understanding of what she must do if she is concerned about a child's welfare. She purposefully reads about wider safeguarding matters, such as online safety. This helps her to remain alert to signs that a child may be at risk of harm. The childminder readily shares information about children's learning with their parents, including meaningful comments in each child's daily diary. She discusses her practice with parents and other early years providers, and reflects on their suggestions in her self-evaluation process. This helps the childminder to plan for future improvement and helps to secure good outcomes for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder skilfully asks children questions which help to prompt them to work out simple problems as they play. For example, they are supported to identify the colours of the marks they make on paper and encouraged to match these with the coloured lids on the pens. The childminder creates fun and exciting opportunities for children to develop their speaking skills. For example, she successfully uses musical instruments to introduce children to new vocabulary, such as 'rain' and 'thunder', when describing the sounds of the different instruments. A sharp focus is placed on encouraging children to strengthen their physical dexterity. For example, the childminder shows toddlers how to twist the lid on a glitter pot before encouraging them to try for themselves.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children behave extremely well. The childminder encourages children to use good manners and is an excellent role model when interacting with them. Toddlers show great kindness and respect for their younger peers and often instinctively pass them toys to play with. Children's self-esteem is boosted exceptionally well. For example, they show great delight at seeing their artwork on display and beam with confidence when the childminder ensures they all have a turn to sing. The childminder places excellent emphasis on teaching children about how to keep themselves safe and healthy. For example, she seizes the opportunity to introduce children to important road safety messages when they mention traffic lights in their imaginative play.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in all areas of learning, given their individual starting points. They readily make choices from the wide array of available toys and games, and often choose to play together following the same theme. They show that they are developing their early mathematical skills well. For instance, they match shapes when creating a picture of a snowman and use positional language such as 'on top' and 'underneath'. Toddlers develop a strong enjoyment of books and listening to stories. They keenly take the lead in turning the pages and confidently point out familiar characters. This helps to prepare children well for their future learning in school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	250947
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10059550
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	25 June 2015

The childminder registered in 1996 and lives in Lakenheath, Suffolk. She operates all year round from 7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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