

Childminder report

Inspection date	6 February 2019
Previous inspection date	29 September 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

- The childminder has over 30 years' experience of helping children to learn through play. She sustains her endless enthusiasm for her vocation and implements her practice with exemplary effect and benefit for children. She has an excellent understanding of her role and responsibilities.
- The enthusiastic childminder is very experienced and well qualified. She has an excellent understanding of the learning and development requirements and has very high expectations of what children can achieve. She intuitively knows when to stand back and observe and when to intervene skilfully to support children's learning.
- The childminder is an excellent role model and she teaches children important social skills, such as learning right from wrong, sharing and taking turns. Children are extremely polite, kind and considerate. They glow with pride when they receive individual praise and encouragement, and they are very proud of their achievements.
- The childminder provides very exciting and challenging activities, to help children to make rapid progress from their starting points. She is highly effective in ensuring that children are fully included and can participate at their own level. For example, she challenges young children to use spoons and tongs to pick up 'slippery' ice cubes.
- The childminder establishes exceptionally friendly and trusting relationships with parents, carers and other early years professionals, to complement children's exceptional standards of care and learning.
- The childminder actively encourages parents to be involved in their children's learning through discussions, sharing development records and making suggestions to support learning at home. She works very well in partnership with others, when appropriate, to disseminate excellent practice and to promote consistency in children's learning and development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to focus professional development precisely on gaining further skills and knowledge to sustain the quality of teaching and learning at the highest possible level.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities taking place indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder and discussed the outcome of this.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including evidence of suitability, policies and procedures, certificates and written testimonials from parents.
- The inspector talked to children and the childminder about her practice at appropriate points in the inspection.

Inspector

Susan Marriott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder is very confident about how to help to protect children in the event of concerns. She accurately evaluates her practice and uses her qualification to share her expertise with others. The childminder reads professional publications, seeks to understand what is required and finds a simple solution to achieve this. For example, she has introduced an electronic method of documenting her practice that parents value and appreciate. The childminder is passionate about ongoing training to continuously improve her knowledge and practice. She proactively identifies available courses to improve outcomes for children in her care. Her ambitions for the future include research, training and involvement in forest-school activities, and offering the best support to children with delayed language development.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder plans meticulously for children's individual learning experiences. She tracks their progress precisely to identify and provide tailored support and challenges. She is a highly skilled communicator who listens attentively to children, encouraging their conversations, teaching colours and providing an ongoing narrative for what they choose to do. She introduces a wealth of new ideas and vocabulary, asks challenging questions and shares new learning superbly. For example, children used tools to chip away the ice to free a plastic polar bear, frozen in a block of ice. The childminder helped them to name Arctic animals, such as a walrus, a seal and a penguin. She showed children the location of the Arctic on a map of the world and told them that people who live in Greenland are called the 'Inuit' people. Children commented that 'igloo' rhymes with 'blue'. Children eagerly explore a richly varied range of experiences that spark their interests and engage them in becoming highly motivated learners. For example, they completed a pictorial 'Winter checklist' of wildlife while on a visit to the park. Children master the physical challenge of climbing the steps on the slide. They unscrew the tops on the paint sticks and they delight in stirring concoctions of green sand.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Outdoor play is an integral part of the children's day. Children enjoy regular opportunities to be physically active, with trips to local play parks allowing them to enjoy the fresh air and the freedom to be outside. Children form very strong bonds with their childminder and they clearly enjoy her company, talking as they play. The childminder provides good opportunities for children to learn about people who are different from themselves to encourage them to be respectful. She ensures that children learn about the benefits of a healthy diet and develop a very good awareness of safety.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

The childminder prepares children exceptionally well for school and for their next stages in learning. She incorporates mathematical language and ideas and opportunities for early writing into activities. Children make excellent progress from their starting points. They develop high levels of independence and self-reliance during dressing, toileting and mealtime routines. She continuously recognises and praises children's efforts, ensuring that they feel confident, valued and motivated.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133949
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10065429
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	29 September 2015

The childminder registered in 1989 and lives in Bicester. She operates weekdays from 7am until 6pm, all year round, except for holidays arranged in advance. The childminder is funded to offer free early years education for three-year-old children. She holds a recognised early years qualification at level 3 and teaches adults studying for childcare qualifications.

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