

Childminder report

Inspection date	14 February 2019
Previous inspection date	16 August 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

- Since the last inspection, the childminder has worked very hard to improve her practice. She has successfully addressed the actions and recommendations raised and has enhanced many other aspects of her practice.
- The childminder meets regularly with her assistants and provides opportunities for coaching and further professional development. Together, they consider the views of parents and children when evaluating the quality of her provision and planning future improvements.
- The childminder has a good understanding of how young children learn. She supports her assistants effectively, giving them advice on how to follow children's interests and extend their learning.
- The childminder carefully monitors the progress that each child makes. This enables her to identify any gaps in their learning and quickly implement plans to ensure that all children make good progress.
- Children are happy and settled in the warm and caring environment provided. They develop close bonds with the childminder and her assistants and enthusiastically encourage them into their play.
- Children's play is sometimes interrupted as the childminder and her assistants direct them to more group activities. They are not given the time to become fully absorbed in the activities they choose for themselves.
- The childminder's strategies to support parents in providing detailed information about what their child can do at home are not always highly successful.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the opportunities for children to become deeply involved in their play and have uninterrupted time to explore the activities they choose for themselves
- strengthen partnerships with parents and find ways to enhance information sharing about children's learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors 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, assistants and children. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living and working in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke with a number of parents and considered their views during the inspection.

Inspector

Denise Farrington

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistants know who to contact should they have any concerns about a child's welfare. Their recent safeguarding training has strengthened the assistants' knowledge of issues that would give them cause for concern about a child's welfare. The childminder checks the suitability of her assistants as part of her recruitment procedures to ensure that they are suitable to work with children. She provides a detailed induction on her policies and procedures for newly appointed assistants. The childminder conducts regular checks of her environment to help ensure it remains a safe place for children. Together with her assistants, the childminder has undertaken a review of the environment to ensure that there is enough space for children of different ages to play.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Overall, the childminder and her assistants support children's learning effectively. They know what children need to learn next and use this information to plan a wide range of stimulating activities. The childminder and her assistants develop children's social, physical and communication skills well. They talk to children as they play and introduce new words to extend their growing vocabulary. For example, as children build models using a variety of different shaped blocks, the assistant uses the word 'oval' to describe a block chosen for the top of a tower. Children of all ages delight in singing songs and learn to count as they sing number rhymes. Younger children excitedly explore the marks their fingers make in paint. Older children learn how to hold a pencil and form some letters of their name.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are excited as they enter the childminder's home and eagerly explore the wide range of resources available. The childminder and her assistants are good role models who help children to manage their behaviour effectively. They use positive praise and encouragement to help promote children's self-esteem and confidence. Children enjoy a range of healthy meals and snacks. The childminder ensures that good hygiene procedures are followed. Children have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills in the fresh air during visits to the local park. They learn to value similarities and differences between themselves and others during trips in the local community.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are motivated, confident and thoroughly enjoy learning. They are eager to join in new experiences and learn new skills. Children are sociable and clearly settled in the childminder's care. They have good communication skills and hold long conversations with adults. Children learn to share and take turns as they develop their friendships. All children make good progress from the start. They learn a range of valuable skills that help to prepare them for their future learning and eventual move to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY467930
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10070697
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	16 August 2018

The childminder registered in 2013 and lives in Skelmersdale. She operates all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. Sessions are from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Thursday and from 7.30am to 4.30pm on Friday. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3. She works with two assistants.

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