

Childminder report

Inspection date	28 February 2019
Previous inspection date	26 August 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		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The childminder works effectively with a range of professionals, including those from health. They work together to ensure a consistent approach to supporting children's learning and development.
- The childminder knows children well. She notices what they are interested in and provides a range of activities to support their interests.
- The childminder is committed to her own professional development. She has attended a range of courses to strengthen her teaching further and has identified training to strengthen her provision. Recent training on mathematics has had a significant impact on children's achievements in this area.
- Children make better than good progress in mathematics. Young children count with numbers in order, identify some numbers and talk about the size and shape of everyday objects.
- The childminder has a good relationship with children. Parents and carers comment that their children love attending and they are cared for like a member of the family.
- The childminder works effectively with parents and carers. There is a good two-way flow of information to support children's learning and development. She gives them advice and support on how they can strengthen children's learning further.
- The childminder's self-evaluation is not sufficiently focused on how she can raise children's learning to an even higher level.
- The childminder does not make the best use of all opportunities to support children's early writing skills and strengthen their learning to the highest level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen self-evaluation and focus more precisely on raising the quality of children's learning to an even higher level
- make better use of all opportunities to support children's early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors 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. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children through written feedback provided.

Inspector
Elizabeth Fish

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms that may indicate possible abuse to children. She knows who to contact should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. She is committed to ensuring her knowledge and skills are up to date. For example, she has recently completed further safeguarding training and acts swiftly to ensure all qualifications, such as paediatric first aid, are renewed in a timely manner. She ensures any relevant information is shared with parents or carers. She demonstrates this when she shares information about online safety with them. The childminder monitors children's learning and generally identifies areas where further support is needed.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder uses her observations effectively to identify where children are in their learning. She generally identifies what children need to learn next and plans activities to extend their learning further. Children are engaged and motivated to learn. Young children concentrate as they play in the play dough. They talk about what they are doing and confidently play with the childminder. The childminder places a high priority on developing children's language. For example, she introduces new vocabulary to the children, such as 'squishy'. Good questioning encourages children to explain their understanding. This is evident when the childminder asks children to remind her how she can make food with the play dough.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They laugh in delight as they sing favourite songs with her. They talk about the friends that they have made at her house. Children develop an understanding of how they can keep themselves healthy. They enjoy a range of home-cooked healthy meals. Children comment that they particularly enjoy the childminder's home-made chicken dinners or spaghetti Bolognese. Children learn that good hygiene supports their good health. They demonstrate this as they wash their hands and help the childminder to clean the table. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. They enjoy playing in the childminder's well-equipped backyard. The childminder also ensures children have plenty of opportunities to be physically active. For example, they enjoy regular visits to the park and soft-play centres.

Outcomes for children are good

All children, including those in receipt of funding, make good progress. Some children make better than good progress, particularly in communication and language. They confidently communicate with visitors to the setting and use language to talk about what they are going to do. Children confidently sing a range of familiar songs. Toddlers demonstrate their developing physical skills as they join blocks together to make a tower. Older children enjoy books. They confidently turn the pages and talk about the illustrations. They develop a good range of skills which support their next stage in learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	313761
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10062690
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 12
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Date of previous inspection	26 August 2015

The childminder registered in 1998 and lives in Stanley, County Durham. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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