

Childminder report

Inspection date	28 February 2019
Previous inspection date	8 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

- Children are provided with a wide range of opportunities to develop their social skills with others. The childminder and her assistants act as positive role models to support children to develop their sharing and turn taking appropriately. They take the children on a variety of outings which helps them to develop their social skills even further.
- The childminder and her assistants have strong communication skills. They discuss the children's progress and achievements together throughout the day. They share messages from parents and other professionals, such as school nursery teachers, with each other so that they are all kept well informed. This helps them to support children's continuity of care thoroughly.
- The childminder assesses children's progress well. She works in partnership with the parents to identify children's initial starting points. This helps her to support children's development as soon as they start. She sets children suitable next steps in their learning. Children make good progress in their learning and development.
- Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They remain focused as they play and choose independently from the wide variety of resources on offer. The childminder has a strong settling-in process which supports children to settle into her care quickly.
- The childminder and her assistants do not consistently use questioning effectively enough to enable children to share and extend their ideas.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use questioning more effectively to support children to share and extend their ideas further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the areas of the premises used for childminding indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector read letters from parents and took their views into consideration.
- The inspector observed the quality of the teaching. She considered the impact of this teaching on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including staff suitability documents, policies and children's learning records.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistants and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Jennifer Hardy

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistants have improved their understanding of the 'Prevent' duty since the last inspection. They are aware of the processes to follow if they have concerns regarding children's welfare. The childminder has improved the professional support she offers to her assistants. Her wealth of knowledge and experience provides the assistants with positive examples of strong practice. Parents are very satisfied with the service that the childminder provides. They feel confident that their children are being well cared for and are learning and progressing well. The childminder takes on board their comments and suggestions and considers ways that she can improve the service she offers further.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistants know the children they care for well. The childminder and her assistants praise and encourage the children, which helps to keep them motivated and focused as they learn. The childminder identifies areas that children need more support with and provides suitable opportunities for them to progress in these areas. Children learn to play cooperatively with each other. For instance, they wait patiently for their turn to crawl through a tunnel. Children learn how to care for animals around them. For example, they help the childminder to feed the pet chicken. Babies gain new skills quickly. They are supported to develop their muscles. The childminder and her assistants encourage them to crawl and start to walk when they are ready. Children enthusiastically join in with familiar songs and actions. They enjoy singing number rhymes, which helps them to develop their counting skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Babies' needs are met well. The childminder talks to babies kindly as she feeds them. Older children are independent at mealtimes. They feed themselves confidently. They learn about the importance of eating healthy food and the positive effect this has on their bodies. Children become confident learners. They behave well and respond positively to the gentle reminders about the rules to follow when needed. Children eagerly explore the local community. The childminder has a local allotment which the children visit regularly. This helps them to develop an understanding of where their food comes from. They visit local parks and music groups as part of their weekly routine.

Outcomes for children are good

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. They gain the skills they need to move on to the next stage in their learning. Older children are well prepared for school. Children confidently explore the toys and investigate how to make things work. For example, babies investigate what happens every time they shake the bells. They respond excitedly to the noise they create. The children use their imaginations as they play. For example, they pretend to ride motorbikes and use play shopping baskets as helmets. They develop an enjoyment of books from a young age. They sit and listen carefully to stories and talk about what they can see in the pictures, which helps them to develop their communication skills further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	155740
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10084929
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 10
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	15
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2018

The childminder registered in 2001 and lives in Oxhey Village, near Watford, Hertfordshire. She works with a full-time assistant and a part-time assistant. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm on Tuesday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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