

Childminder report

Inspection date	27 February 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Not applicable	1
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's rigorous self-evaluation helps her to prioritise where she can make improvements to achieve high-quality outcomes for children. For example, following her self-evaluation, she introduced unusual activities that greatly enhance children's progress in developing fine motor skills. Children learned to weave string and pine cones together to make 3-dimensional animals.
- Children of all ages make excellent progress, relative to their starting points, and some consistently achieve at higher than expected levels for their age. The childminder's extremely thorough systems of tracking children's progress help her to quickly identify any gaps in their learning, which she immediately addresses when planning, so these close rapidly.
- Children's behaviour is extremely good and they show high levels of emotional security. The childminder is an excellent role model who respects children's opinions, listening to and valuing what they have to say. Consequently, children listen to each other when they disagree and negotiate to reach agreements that each child feels are fair.
- The childminder has excellent relationships with parents. She involves them exceptionally well in their children's learning. For example, organising workshops so they can experience the range of learning that takes place in activities, such as water play and construction. Parents regularly provide her with details about their children's achievements at home, to help inform her assessments.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to develop activities that encourage children to express themselves creatively in different ways.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children engaged in learning activities indoors and outside.
- The inspector had discussions with the childminder and children and read feedback from parents.
- The inspector talked to the childminder about how she plans for children's next steps in learning and monitors their progress.
- The inspector sampled records and documentation, including safeguarding procedures, and talked to the childminder about how she implements these.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's systems of self-evaluation and how she priorities improvements.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The childminder is highly motivated to constantly develop her skills, to provide children with the best possible learning experiences. For example, following appropriate training, she introduced simple yoga techniques with children to help them gain a better understanding of how their bodies work. They learn to focus on breathing exercises to help them relax. She is currently developing more opportunities for children to use music and movement to express their feelings and, in particular, better engaging some of the boys in these activities. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder's knowledge of local safeguarding procedures and what to do to protect children from harm is excellent. She is also very knowledgeable about wider safeguarding issues and the potential risks these pose to vulnerable families.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder supports children's learning extremely well. She plans excellent activities that engage and challenge children and help them to achieve highly. For example, she teaches children how to make dye from plants and fruit, using their dyed fabric to make bunting to hang in the playroom. She communicates extremely well with children and makes excellent use of spontaneous opportunities that arise to extend their learning. For example, she encourages children to look at the tyre tracks on their way to see the animals on the nearby farm. They talk about the types of vehicle that might have left these. The childminder promotes early mathematics particularly well. For example, children identify circles and semi-circles as they prepare the fruit and vegetables for their snack and they carefully weigh out seeds to feed the birds. The childminder has extremely good relationships with other early years providers that children attend. She establishes very good systems of sharing information, to ensure a shared and consistent approach when planning for children's next steps in learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children's safety awareness is excellent. For example, they enjoy regular walks around the village, where many of the lanes have no footpaths. Children show an extremely good understanding of road safety. They keep to the grass verge and constantly look and listen to make sure there are no cars approaching, without any prompting from the childminder. Children develop excellent knowledge of the natural world. For example, when the childminder accidentally put her hand on a stinging nettle, children knew there would be dock leaves nearby and rubbed these on her hand to soothe it.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children learn excellent skills that prepare them very well for their next stage in learning, including going to school. For example, younger children are very independent and confidently manage practical tasks, such as putting their outdoor shoes on. When they put their boots on the wrong feet, they tell the childminder that their boots 'don't feel right' and swap them around. Older children solve problems extremely well. For example, when they want to tow each other around the garden, they work out that the rope between the vehicles needs to be taut to be successful.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY538649
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	10089460
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

The childminder registered in 2016 and lives in North Petherton, Somerset. She provides care from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday all year round. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3 and a psychology degree.

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