

Childminder report

Inspection date	12 March 2019
Previous inspection date	6 August 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Good	2 2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children thrive in the childminder's warm and welcoming homely environment. They form strong bonds with the childminder and her assistant. New children settle quickly into their care and demonstrate by their behaviour that they feel safe and secure.
- The childminder has a sound understanding of child development. The quality of her teaching is consistently good and at times is outstanding. Children experience an extensive range of enjoyable and stimulating activities, indoors and outdoors, that encourage them to learn.
- Children make good progress in their learning. They are active and confident learners and are enthusiastic in their play.
- The childminder works closely in partnership with parents and fully involves them in their children's learning. She identifies children's starting points from information received from parents and she provides ongoing feedback on their progress.
- The childminder seeks the views of parents and children regularly to ensure her setting meets their individual needs. She reflects closely on her practice and undertakes much research and training to ensure her continuous professional development.
- The childminder has not fully implemented a system of supervision and reflective practice for her new assistants, to help drive teaching to a higher level.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- implement a system for observation and supervision of assistants' practice that raises the quality of teaching and learning to a higher level.

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 carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and spoke to her assistant and children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including children's records, suitability and qualifications, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by speaking to them and reading written comments and testimonials.

Inspector

Jenny Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder monitors children's development closely to ensure they are meeting expected milestones and are not falling behind in their learning. She uses an online programme to track children's progress. This helps her to plan for the next steps in their learning. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistant have a good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding matters. They fully understand their responsibilities to protect children. The childminder reviews her policies and procedures regularly and ensures they are kept up to date. The childminder ensures that her setting is safe for children of all ages. She carries out risk assessments of her premises and on outings. She teaches children how to keep themselves safe, for example, by teaching them to stay close together when outdoors and to cross the road carefully.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder understands how children learn and how to assess their progress. She maintains a strong focus on promoting children's communication and language development. She provides a good range of books that children can access easily. The childminder provides opportunities for children to explore natural resources and everyday objects. This helps children to practise their skills for the future in a safe and well-supervised environment. Children of different ages learn to play cooperatively together. For example, they work side by side and enjoy being creative as they paint huge murals. Activities such as this teach children about spatial awareness. Children develop good hand-to-eye coordination and they learn to take turns and share.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. The childminder provides a vast array of imaginative and creative play resources that spark children's enthusiasm and zest for learning. They learn many skills from their freely chosen activities. For example, they become engrossed in creating potions from natural resources. Sensory experiences such as touching, feeling and smelling, promote their personal, social and emotional development. They learn about filling and emptying, weight and volume. They learn about colours and shapes and how water can change textures. Children are extremely independent. Young children feed themselves from an early age and they make choices from the excellent healthy foods available. Children behave exceptionally well. The childminder uses lots of praise and affirmation to boost their self-esteem.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop their physical skills well as they run, climb and play outdoors. Younger children are encouraged and develop confidence in taking their first steps. Older children learn skills in readiness for school, including counting, matching numbers and objects and learning letter sounds. Children learn about the world around them. They learn about differences and similarities in people and communities and explore different cultures.

Setting details

Unique reference number	201860
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10062896
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	12
Number of children on roll	19
Date of previous inspection	6 August 2015

The childminder registered in 1999 and lives in Langdon Hills, Essex. She operates all year round from 7.15am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with assistants.

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