

Childminder report

Inspection date	14 May 2019
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	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 plans a wide variety of activities that interest and challenge children of all ages. Children respond eagerly to the stimulating environments indoors and outdoors. For example, they become engrossed in exploring how to use a compass and how a magnifying glass helps them to observe creatures and flowers more closely.
- The childminder holds useful conversations with children and helps them to play purposefully. For example, she encourages young children to think about colours and motions of liquids in clear containers, and how they reflect light and images. Children become inquisitive and confidently ask probing questions.
- Children delight in the wealth of opportunities for fresh air and exercise in the outdoor area. Very young children enjoy the resources and safe methods that help them to practise walking independently. Older children develop confidence to safely extend their physical skills on larger play equipment.
- The childminder has a nurturing manner, with high expectations and well-established routines. This supports children's very good behaviour.
- The childminder has well-structured communications with a group of fellow childminders. They exchange a wealth of ideas and findings based on their successes. As a result, the childminder has increased the use of natural materials. Children explore and manipulate naturally sourced materials.
- The childminder knows each child very well. She observes children closely and uses this to accurately inform planning and to fill gaps in children's learning. All children make good progress. However, there is scope to add more precision to the already successful assessment.
- Parents are very pleased with the care the childminder provides and the progress their children make. On occasion, the childminder does not make the most of opportunities to involve them fully in promoting their children's learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- focus more sharply on assessment of children's learning and development to help children make the best possible progress
- strengthen opportunities for parents to be more closely involved in sharing information about children's learning and developmental needs.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's setting and the impact her teaching has on children's development.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out an evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's self-evaluation, risk assessments, policies and procedures. She looked at a range of other documents.

Inspector

Liz Kissane

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities to meet all legal requirements. She has clear and comprehensive safety procedures which she follows closely to promote children's safety. She is alert to any signs that children may be at risk of harm and knows how to report concerns. Safeguarding is effective. Children learn to take risks safely and they are encouraged to assess levels of safety for themselves. The childminder regularly evaluates her provision and makes improvements. She remodelled the 'mud kitchen', where children now access a range of pots, pans and utensils hanging neatly on hooks. Children choose and match the correct shape and size of equipment to the ingredients they are using. They know where to return them tidily. Children learn a variety of different life skills.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn. She encourages children to make small steps to build on success and move to the next stage. For example, they enjoy handling shiny pebbles and an array of seashells, which they count and order by category, size and weight. They link these mathematical ideas with other activities. For example, during a game of hopscotch, they match their number of jumps to written numbers. The childminder provides a variety of good-quality resources to help support children to make patterns and marks on paper. Children develop their small-muscle skills as they work towards holding a pencil. The childminder knows whether she needs to correct, repeat or extend children's language. She adjusts her teaching to meet each child's needs.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder consistently shows children respect and patience. In turn, they learn to be kind and to value one another. They grow in confidence with the love and praise they receive. Very young children become independent, for example, when they dress themselves for different weathers. They serve themselves from a choice of healthy snacks. The childminder discusses the benefits of eating fresh fruit and drinking water. Children enjoy observing and discussing the needs of the family cat and puppy. They learn about different animals on visits to the nearby zoo.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop positive attitudes to learning. They acquire early literacy and mathematical skills. Children begin to identify letters and learn the sounds the letters represent. They learn to write their names. Children learn about how the world works. They are well prepared for the next stage in their education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY544864
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10092493
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	10
Number of children on roll	10
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

The childminder registered in 2017 and lives in Leighton Buzzard. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds a recognised childcare qualification at level 3.

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