

Childminder report

Inspection date	9 July 2019
Previous inspection date	11 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 actively seeks the views of parents to help her to reflect on her practice. She consistently listens to children's ideas and adapts her activities and teaching skills to take account of their views and opinions.
- Children have good opportunities to learn about their own and each other's cultures. For example, the childminder provides dual language text books and supports children to learn how to say words in languages they hear and speak at home. This helps to support social interaction and progress in their communication and language development.
- The childminder provides children with a broad range of experiences. For example, she takes them on regular trips out, such as to parks and the library. Children talk excitedly about these visits and behave well.
- Children gain a good understanding of the world. For example, children have a keen interest in maps and travel. They talk in detail about the countries they pretend to visit and the modes of transport they need to use.
- The childminder uses her home well as an effective learning environment. Children make full use of the space available to them. For example, they walk down the hall as they go on pretend journeys and the bottom step is a popular place to pretend to be on an aeroplane.
- The childminder does not gain precise information on what children can already do when they start to attend her setting. Consequently, she does not swiftly identify children's starting points in learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- gather more precise information on what children can already do when they start to attend, in order to build on their prior learning from the outset.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at the areas of the premises used for childminding and observed the interactions between the childminder and children during play and routine activities.
- The inspector observed the childminder teaching the children during a planned activity and discussed the learning that was taking place.
- The inspector discussed the progress children are making with the childminder and looked at children's development and assessment records.
- The inspector reviewed a range of documents, including the safeguarding policy and suitability checks of household members.
- The inspector took into account the written views of parents and discussed the childminder's reflections on her practice with her.

Inspector
Jill Hardaker

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a good understanding of how to recognise signs that children may be at risk of harm and knows what agencies to contact should she need to take further advice. The childminder undertakes risk assessments to help her keep children safe. She teaches children ways to protect themselves, such as by tidying away toys they have finished playing with. The childminder reflects on her practice and identifies areas to improve. For example, she seeks training opportunities to enable her to continuously develop her knowledge and teaching skills. The childminder talks about the positive impact training has had on her understanding of child development and children's mental health.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder observes children's development through planned activities and play. This helps her to identify what they need to learn next. The childminder has clear objectives set for each child which she skilfully implements into her teaching. She teaches children mathematics well. For example, she gives younger children opportunities to count pictures as they look at books. She extends older children's understanding of numerals by relating numbers to ages of themselves and adults. The childminder provides intricate activities, such as threading, that help to increase children's concentration levels and fine physical skills. She supports children relevant to their needs and this enables them to succeed with their tasks.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder knows the children and their families well and they greatly benefit from her continuity of care, over many years. Children flourish and develop secure emotional attachments with her. Children's behaviour is good and they respond well to the childminder. They are keen to play together and share resources well. The childminder provides healthy food and is careful to ensure children with food allergies are kept as safe as possible. Children understand the need to wash their hands before eating. For example, they talk about how dirt and germs could make them ill if they do not wash them off. The childminder establishes strong partnerships with parents and keeps them well informed about their children's learning. Parents speak positively of the childminder, stating their children are very happy and safe in her care.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress. They show a keen interest in books and enjoy listening to stories and looking at books independently. Children gain ideas for imaginative play from factual books. For example, they pretend to go on holiday to cities they have learnt about. Children are content to play and be independent in their learning and know when they need to ask the childminder for help. Children are effectively prepared for their next stage of learning, such as school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	123712
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10063508
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	11 August 2015

The childminder registered in 1998. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.45pm, Tuesday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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