

Childminder report

Inspection date	12 August 2019
Previous inspection date	17 February 2016

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are nurtured and thrive in this exceptionally welcoming and well-organised environment. The childminder shows a genuine warmth and affection for the children, which positively supports their emotional well-being. Children demonstrate that they are extremely happy and relaxed in the childminder's care.
- The childminder's professional qualification and experience supports her understanding of how children learn and develop. She offers a wide range of resources and learning opportunities that challenge children. This helps them to make good progress in all areas of their learning.
- Children develop a love of books and spend some quiet time each day looking at them and listening to stories. They enjoy using the wonderful resources available to retell their favourite stories.
- The childminder has excellent relationships with parents. They say that they cannot thank her enough for what she does for their children. The childminder keeps parents well informed of their children's achievements. She gives them helpful suggestions about what they can do to continue their children's learning at home.
- The childminder provides exciting, real-life experiences for children to extend their knowledge of the world. For example, they enjoy exploring in the woods. They visit the animals at the local garden centre and have rides on the miniature railway. They observe caterpillars hatching into butterflies and release them in the garden.
- The childminder regularly reflects on her practice. She values feedback from parents and children. She uses their views to help make improvements to her provision. For example, she intends to build on the natural resources in her garden.
- The childminder does not consistently make effective use of the information that she gathers about what children already know and can do on entry.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more effective use of the information about what children already know and can do when they start, and use this to establish accurate starting points from which to plan children's next steps and monitor their progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the premises and viewed the areas used by the children.
- The inspector observed the children interacting with the childminder.
- The inspector discussed children's learning and development with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through reading written feedback provided.

Inspector

Jacqui Oliver

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The childminder is well qualified and very experienced in looking after children. She has a positive attitude to developing her practice and keeping her knowledge up to date. She regularly meets with other childminders to share ideas and good practice. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has completed relevant training and is aware of her role in keeping children safe. She knows the action to take if she is concerned about a child's well-being. She has comprehensive policies and procedures that underpin her good knowledge. Robust risk assessments are carried out, of her home and places she visits with the children, to help keep them safe. The childminder develops good partnerships with the schools that children attend. They work closely together to provide continuity in children's care and learning.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder plans exciting activities for children based on their interests and individual learning needs. She creates delightful learning journeys which record children's 'special moments' and the very good progress they make. She skilfully supports children's language development. For example, she sings songs with children and encourages conversations to help extend their use of language. Children develop good literacy skills as they identify items with the same initial sound in the 'sound bag'. They confidently count and enjoy practical activities involving adding and subtracting numbers. The childminder provides a wide range of resources that encourage children to develop their creative skills. For example, they make shapes with play dough, decorate their sand castles with shells, paint flowers and enjoy dancing with scarves.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder is an excellent role model and treats children with kindness and respect. Children form extremely close relationships with her and show their affection for her. She has a wealth of high-quality toys and resources. These are superbly presented, enabling children to make choices in their play. She uses every opportunity to praise children for their achievements. Children have extremely high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Their behaviour is exemplary. The childminder provides children with consistent boundaries and expectations and involves them in helping to devise 'house rules'. The childminder uses mealtimes to extend children's learning about eating healthily. They talk about what foods are good for them. Children learn how to manage risks for themselves. For example, they carefully use the equipment in the garden and learn about road safety as they walk to school.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are confident, develop good self-esteem and are eager to learn. They can follow instructions, complete tasks and make choices in their play. They have great fun making marks in paint, foam and sand. Older children enjoy contributing to discussions and confidently talk to visitors. They can copy letters and recognise their names in print. Children learn about the natural world as they watch their sunflowers grow. They have a lot of fun and take pleasure in their learning. All children quickly gain the skills they need for their future learning and for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY362478
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10074011
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	17 February 2016

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Cheshunt. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Wednesday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3. She provides funded early years education for three- and four-year-old children.

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