

Childminder report

Inspection date	19 August 2019
Previous inspection date	30 September 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
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

- Children form exceedingly close and affectionate attachments to the childminder. They are excited to enter her enchanting setting and explore the wonders of the natural environment around them.
- Children develop excellent communication and language skills. Older children read stories to younger ones. They learn songs and rhymes that link to their play. Children enjoy physical activities such as balancing on logs and climbing trees. They build their muscles and their confidence and are very independent.
- The childminder fully understands the needs of every child. She is highly skilled at planning absorbing and enticing activities that reflect children's interests. She knows what children need to learn next and takes every opportunity during their play to ensure they achieve their goals.
- Children make excellent progress in their learning. The childminder assesses their development thoroughly and provides evermore challenging activities to help them progress to the best of their ability. These highly effective assessment methods help the childminder to identify where children might fall behind in their learning, or exceed expectations.
- The childminder is dedicated to providing children with an incredibly thorough understanding of the world around them. She leads children in forest and woodland activities that promote resilience and life skills. Children really enjoy being outdoors and finding out about the natural world.
- The childminder evaluates her practice continuously. She seeks the views of parents and children and she has exceptionally high expectations of herself. She builds strong and highly effective partnerships with parents. She supports parents exceedingly well to ensure they are fully engaged in their children's learning from the beginning of their time in the setting. She plans to attend further training to continue to enhance her practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to find new ways to enhance the already outstanding practice through sharply focused training and research, to support continuous professional development to an even 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 discussed the learning intentions of activities with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and spoke to children.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, such as children's records, suitability and qualifications, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading written feedback and testimonials.

Inspector

Jenny Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder undertakes regular and extensive training in safeguarding to ensure her knowledge is always up to date. She has a thorough awareness of her responsibilities to protect the children in her care. She actively pursues information about safeguarding to ensure she knows how to report any concerns she may have about a child's well-being. The childminder has achieved accreditation in the forest school approach to teaching. She involves children and their parents in thorough and rigorous risk assessments of all the areas of the setting. She assesses risks in the activities and experiences she provides for the children to ensure they stay safe. The childminder works extremely closely with parents and obtains their written permission for all the wonderful experiences their children enjoy.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder's teaching is inspirational. Children are exceptionally eager to learn. The quality of the resources and the way they are presented ensures that children are highly motivated and enthusiastic in their play and learning choices. Children are really keen to contribute as the childminder asks them to share recent events with their friends. This helps children to develop their thinking skills and confidence to speak in a group. The childminder provides intriguing activities that support children to develop their concentration and attention. For example, she asks children to listen carefully to sounds she makes with hidden objects. Children listen intently and they explore various musical instruments to find those that closely match the sounds they hear.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children have endless opportunities to learn about nature as they explore woods and gardens. They make dens and search for bugs and butterflies. They learn how to grow vegetables and to cook. Children have wonderful experiences that teach them about animals and life cycles. They watch eggs hatch into chicks and they compare the different sizes of eggs of chickens and ducks. The childminder is imaginative and creative. She uses real life and natural resources to teach children how to enjoy them. For instance, children decorate glass jars and the childminder shows them how to arrange flowers as centrepieces for their table. She talks to children about the traditional use of flowers at weddings. They talk about the colours, smells and textures. Children enjoy an extensive range of healthy fruit for their snacks and they learn excellent hygiene skills.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children's behaviour is exceptional. They help each other and are kind. They share their resources. They take turns and respect other people's views and differences. Children explore fascinating books and resources that help them to learn about life in other countries. They learn skills of literacy and numeracy through the activities they enjoy. As an example, they count numbered stones and repeat the sounds of letters. They make marks in sand and practise early writing in readiness for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY362401
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10071991
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	30 September 2015

The childminder registered in 2007. She operates from Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3. She occasionally works with her husband as her assistant.

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