

Childminder Report

Inspection date

9 March 2016

Previous inspection date

31 May 2011

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

- The childminder is well qualified, extremely enthusiastic and hard working. She wants the best for every child in her care. She is dedicated to achieving and maintaining excellence in all areas of her practice. She travels extensively to visit other childminders and gain new ideas to improve children's experiences.
- The childminder and her assistant use a range of teaching strategies to expertly promote children's skills. They listen to and extend children's stories and imaginative play. They are very creative and plan engaging experiences which capture children's imagination. Children become inquisitive and eager learners.
- Detailed and precise assessments of children's development are completed regularly. This enables the childminder to carefully monitor progress and identify early on if any gaps are emerging. These are quickly addressed through highly effective partnerships with parents and other providers. As a result, all children make outstanding progress from their starting points.
- The childminder has high expectations for children's learning from the start and she develops tailored plans to ensure every child reaches their full potential.
- The childminder and her assistant are very gentle and extremely patient in their approach. They speak softly and give clear boundaries to children. Children's behaviour is excellent as they know what is expected of them and why. The atmosphere is incredibly calm and children become deeply absorbed in their learning.
- Parents are highly complimentary about the support, care and learning their children receive. They state that they are kept fully informed about their children's progress and are supported to extend learning at home through innovative ideas and activities.
- The childminder meticulously oversees her assistant's practice and provides guidance to ensure that the highest-quality learning experiences are consistently offered to children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to enrich the excellent outdoor learning opportunities for children to solve problems and think critically and assess the impact of these improvements on driving up children's achievements.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the home that are used for childminding.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector observed practice and evaluated activities with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the written testimonials of parents provided.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies and procedures and records of children's development and learning.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all those working with the children and checked the childminder's qualification.

Inspector

Emma Woollard

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is outstanding

Arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder and her assistant have an in-depth understanding of their safeguarding duties. They are knowledgeable about possible indicators of abuse and how to respond. Highly successful relationships are established with parents. The childminder uses innovative ways to find out about what children are learning at home. For example, parents can share video clips of children's achievements with the childminder through secure online media. Methods for exchanging information with other settings that children attend are well established. This results in a shared approach to support children's continued good progress. The childminder joins with staff from a local nursery to attend conferences and continue developing her good teaching skills further. She sets herself challenging targets to continue improving her exemplary practice. For instance, the childminder intends to develop children's thinking skills even further by enriching the excellent outdoor learning environment to provide additional challenge.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

Through high-quality teaching, children are constantly being challenged to learn more in everything they do. For example, they learn about quarters, halves and wholes as they make their own sandwiches for lunch. All children develop a love of reading and they make exceptional progress in their literacy skills. They write lists and stories and they make books about their families. They read aloud confidently. Children keep their own records of the progress they are making. They evaluate their successes and draw a smiley face to indicate a new skill learnt. Children enjoy finding out about people who are different to them. Close to Mother's Day they learn about mothers and their children in different parts of the world. The childminder exchanges artefacts with schools in different continents. These are used well to spark children's curiosity of other cultures. Parents sing and record nursery rhymes in other languages, which all children enjoy learning.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

New children settle quickly. The childminder establishes a concise picture of children's prior learning. She visits them at home and works with parents to support children's gradual introduction to her setting. She adjusts care routines so they are personalised and closely match children's experiences at home. Children enjoy everyday events, such as nappy changes, because the childminder makes this fun, singing songs as she attends to their personal needs. Babies who cry are soothed quickly and develop strong bonds with their carers. The environment is very well organised, vibrant and inviting to children. Every item of equipment is carefully selected to ensure the best possibilities for children's learning. Children are highly motivated to explore resources independently.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children thrive with the childminder and her assistant. They are very confident speakers and they have an extensive vocabulary for their age. Children demonstrate high self-esteem and enthusiasm for learning. They make rapid progress from their starting points and develop skills that prepare them superbly for school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY360675
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	849608
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 6
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	31 May 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Burwell, Cambridgeshire. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has a level 3 qualification and she works with an assistant. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
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