

Childminder report

Inspection date: 19 July 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They move freely and confidently around the areas of her home used for childminding. All children, including the youngest, follow the childminder's routines proficiently. For example, they use the ground floor bathroom to wash their hands when they have been playing outside and before and after meals. Children receive support from the childminder where needed, however, they generally manage these self-care needs with little help. Children are kind, caring and considerate towards each other. For example, at lunchtime, they pass the bowl of fruit around to ensure that they can all reach it. While completing a sticking activity, children share the sheets of stickers to make sure that their friends have some.

Children develop a good sense of belonging. They take time to look at the photos displayed on a low photo pouch. Children point to each other and remind themselves of the activities they participated in the previous week. Children have a good relationship with the childminder. They approach her for cuddles and support when feeling unsure around strangers. Children chat confidently to the childminder and show her what they are doing. She in return offers praise and encouragement to help to build their self-confidence.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The childminder has worked hard since her last inspection to improve and develop her knowledge of safeguarding procedures. She has refreshed her safeguarding knowledge and implemented more effective record keeping, for example recording existing injuries. The childminder has further improved her methods of communication with parents. She routinely completes a progress check for all children between the ages of two and three years and shares this information with parents.
- Parents spoken to at the time of the inspection, speak highly of the childminder and comment on the way in which their children have made exceptional progress during their time with her. Written responses to a questionnaire the childminder sent to parents are very favourable, and compliment the childminder on her effective communication skills and caring attitude towards their children.
- The childminder has reviewed and evaluated all aspects of her childminding provision since her last inspection. She has undertaken further training to help her to update and improve her understanding of how to deliver the curriculum. She has implemented an online app, which she uses to record her observations of children's development. This helps her to identify children's next steps in learning more effectively and share this information with parents. The childminder now provides parents with a newsletter, further informing them about the activities completed and forthcoming planning for their children.

- Children enjoy exploring water in the childminder's garden. They proficiently wash the sit-in cars at the 'car wash'. They use guttering to roll balls and pour water through, giggling as it pours out of the bottom one. Children are able to use their curiosity to find other resources to weave through the guttering, such as a length of a vacuum cleaner hose. They squeal with delight as the water still flows through the tubing.
- Children engage in new creative activities, inspired by the childminder during the hot weather. For example, they enjoy making marks with paint that has been frozen onto lolly sticks. They name the colours they want to use and watch in delight as the paint and ice leave a colourful trail on the paper.
- Children sit and listen attentively to stories read by the childminder. They engage with the story, using puppets and props and joining in with their favourite parts. They enthusiastically participate in a singing session, prompted by the childminder.
- The childminder uses the children's interests when supporting their spontaneous play. She praises their achievements when they build towers from colourful wooden bricks. The childminder provides some opportunities for children to develop their knowledge, for example, of numbers during such activities. However, she does not always provide time during her dialogue to encourage children to think critically for themselves. At times, the childminder's use of vocabulary is limited and does not ensure children hear rich language that fully extends their thinking.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder demonstrates secure knowledge of safeguarding procedures. She recognises the signs and symptoms that might indicate that a child is being abused or mistreated, including those connected with the 'Prevent' duty. The childminder understands what action she should take if she suspects that a child is at risk of harm. She regularly updates her safeguarding knowledge and keeps abreast of new safeguarding procedures and guidance through local early years forums.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide time and space for children to fully explore and think critically during both planned and freely chosen play
- develop further ways of incorporating more varied vocabulary in discussions with children, so that they hear rich and purposeful language during interactions.

Setting details

Unique reference number	119415
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10237142
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2022

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1999. She lives in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. The childminder operates all year round from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 6. The childminder provides funded education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lynn Hughes

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provision.
- The childminder showed the inspector all areas of their premises used for childminding and discussed how they ensure that they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder and the inspector completed a learning walk together to discuss their intentions for children's learning.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The childminder and inspector discussed an observation and how the curriculum had been implemented and the impact that this had on children's learning.
- Parents provided the inspector with oral and written feedback.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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