

Childminder report

Inspection date: 17 January 2025

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The childminder is deeply committed to creating a nurturing, homely environment where children thrive. She has high expectations for all children and delivers a diverse and inspiring curriculum tailored to each child's distinct interests, personalities and talents. All children make exceptional progress. Children show they feel extremely safe and settled from the time they arrive until the time they go home. They eagerly explore the activities the childminder offers. They sing to themselves as they play, and they giggle and joke with each other and the childminder. The childminder cherishes this fun and laughter and encourages children to explore their sense of humour and express their excitement in their learning. Children consistently show respect and care for the childminder and each other. Their manners and behaviour are exemplary for their age and stage of development. For example, they eagerly wait for their friends to arrive and immediately invite them to join their play, sharing and taking turns without support.

Children benefit immensely from the childminder's exceptional knowledge and dedication. She focuses strongly on developing children's communication, language and early literacy skills. She takes every opportunity to expand their vocabulary and consistently encourages children to share their thoughts and ideas. The childminder skilfully asks well-timed questions during free play and allows children time to think and respond. She enthusiastically reads stories, encouraging children to anticipate what is next, to join in with rhyming words and to change their voices to match the characters. Young children confidently change their pitch, tone and rhythm as they read with the childminder. Children show a love for books, often asking, 'Can you read it again?' and 'Can you read another one, please?' Children love to bring books from home every day. The childminder shares these books as part of the daily routine.

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

- The childminder warmly engages in exceptional interactions with the children. She thoughtfully joins children's play while also allowing time for children to explore the activities and environment independently. The childminder engages children in meaningful conversations. She uses these conversations to skilfully introduce new vocabulary, such as 'macarons' and 'caribou,' and to check children's understanding of mathematical concepts. Children naturally ask the childminder questions as they play. The childminder tailors her answers and explanations to each child's knowledge and experience. For example, she confirms to younger children that some of the jewels they find during rice play are 'clear' because 'you can see through them'.
- The childminder places a high priority on children's independence. She teaches children essential skills, such as safely preparing their own fruit, managing their

self-care and independently putting on and removing coats and shoes. Children understand the importance of hygiene, knowing they must wipe tables and wash their hands carefully to 'get rid of germs'. They confidently use a mirror to clean their faces after eating.

- Partnerships with parents are highly effective. The childminder collaborates with parents to promote the best possible education and care for each child. She involves parents in their child's learning from the start, producing monthly newsletters that detail upcoming learning themes and ways parents can support them at home. A noticeboard ensures parents are informed about government guidance on childhood illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Parents speak very positively of the childminder. They describe the childminder as 'caring, professional and always there when we need her'.
- The childminder values each child's uniqueness and individuality. She knows each child exceptionally well and nurtures their talents. For example, she teaches children how to hold and play the guitar and ensures musical instruments are always accessible for those with a passion for music. Ample opportunities are provided for children to express themselves, make choices and voice their preferences. This builds children's self-confidence and teaches them to listen and respect others' views.
- Children demonstrate high levels of involvement and positive attitudes towards their learning. The childminder has thoughtfully developed a curriculum that offers children as many inspiring and challenging experiences as possible. This is reflected in the engaging activities and trips she organises. For instance, children regularly visit the beach, the local woods, museums and adventure parks with her. This fosters children's natural curiosity for the world around them and supports them to continually practise and expand their knowledge and skills.
- The childminder has established strong relationships with other providers. She regularly collaborates with local childminders to engage in a wide range of training opportunities, further enhancing her already excellent knowledge of child development. She participates in weekly online webinars to keep her practice up to date. For example, following a recent training session, the childminder organises her learning environment to encourage children to be more physically active. She arranges resources and activities to give children more opportunities to strengthen their core muscles.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	142219
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	10376006
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	0 to 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	14 May 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1996 and lives in Frome, Somerset. She operates all year round, from 7.20am to 5.30pm, Monday to Wednesday, and from 8am to 3.15pm on Thursdays. The childminder offers government funded places.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Mikaela Jauncey

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises with the childminder.
- The childminder joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about her curriculum and what she wants children to learn.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder throughout the inspection and discussed how the curriculum is planned and implemented and how children's progress is monitored.
- Children spoke to the inspector.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a story time session with the childminder.
- Parents spoke to the inspector, and the inspector took these views into account.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2025