

Childminder report

Inspection date: 31 July 2023

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 are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They turn to her for support and reassurance. They learn to speak about their feelings, for instance, when they feel a bit sad and miss their parents. The childminder addresses this sensitively, providing them with reassurance and inviting them to engage in another activity. This helps them to feel safe and to settle back into play quickly.

Children enjoy the activities they complete at the childminder's home. They use their imaginations as they play. They pretend to take dolls on outings and feed them and change their nappies. The childminder supports children's understanding of how to engage in pretend play well. For instance, she models this for them as she pretends to eat the sand cakes that children make her. This helps children to make the most of their learning opportunities as they play.

Children confidently recognise when they need a drink throughout the day and access their own water bottles independently. They wash their hands when they return indoors from playing outside. The childminder helps children to understand the importance of having positive hygiene routines in place.

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

- The childminder has made strong improvements to the suitability of her premises since her last inspection. Children have access to safe and clean areas to play. The childminder arranges her learning environment to encourage children to explore independently. She adapts this to meet the needs and ages of the children who attend.
- The childminder uses her accurate assessments to provide children with appropriate levels of challenge. For example, she introduces different tweezers to an activity to help strengthen the small muscles in children's hands. Children respond positively to the challenge and concentrate well. The childminder provides them with praise and encouragement, which also builds their confidence.
- Relationships with the families of children who attend are strong, and the childminder is fully aware of any relevant personal circumstances. This helps her to support the needs of the children in her care. The childminder communicates well with parents and provides them with relevant information. For example, she shares information with parents about the effect that dummies can have on children's speech development. Parents comment that they are happy with the care that the childminder provides.
- Children enjoy a range of experiences to build on what they know and can already do. They enjoy outings, such as picking fruit at a local farm. The childminder ensures that these experiences are relevant to the children. She has

created a special storybook about people who the children may see when they are in the childminder's care. This helps children to build relationships with others and feel comfortable in their company.

- Overall, the childminder supports children's communication and language development well. She speaks to children about what they are doing and provides them with a commentary as they play. However, the childminder does not fully support children to share their thoughts and opinions. For instance, when reading a book together, the childminder does not encourage children to predict what will happen next or discuss what is happening in the story.
- Children become independent and complete tasks for themselves. The childminder encourages them to have a go when opening packets at lunchtime. She provides them with initial support if they find it tricky and then they try again. Children who are preparing to move on to the next stage in their learning master new skills. The childminder reminds them of strategies to remember how to do things, for instance, when they are putting on their shoes. This enables them to complete the task successfully.
- The childminder has continued to develop her professional knowledge since her last inspection. She regularly networks with other local childminders, which provides her with opportunities to share ideas and know what is on offer locally. She completes online training that is relevant to the children who attend. This helps her to strengthen her interactions with children further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder recognises the possible signs of abuse and neglect. She has completed a relevant safeguarding course and understands the appropriate local procedures to follow to raise concerns if needed. The childminder has access to all of the relevant contact information for other agencies. This helps her to be able to raise her concerns in a timely manner should she become worried about a child. The childminder understands what to do if someone makes an allegation against herself or a member of her household.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen opportunities for children to share their own thoughts and ideas with others to further support their speech and language development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	147083
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10279229
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 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	2 February 2023

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1997 and lives in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two- and three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jenny Hardy

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the childminder.
- The childminder showed the inspector the areas of the home used for childminding, and the inspector considered the safety and suitability of these.
- The inspector read written feedback from parents and took their comments into account.
- The inspector observed the childminder interacting with children. She discussed the purpose of these interactions with the childminder and considered the impact on children's learning and development.
- The inspector reviewed documentation, including suitability documents for the childminder and household members.

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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