

Childminder report

Inspection date: 10 January 2024

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

Children are keen and enthusiastic young learners. They are very observant, taking notice of everything around them. Children are curious and ask pertinent questions, listening attentively to the childminder's answers. The childminder creates this awe and wonder in children in a calm and caring manner. She makes use of every opportunity to create highly purposeful teaching moments. Children lead the way in every aspect of their learning through their interests and ideas. The childminder facilitates the enhancement and extension of these ideas proficiently through appropriate discussions and use of resources.

Children are extremely well mannered. They fully understand the importance of sharing and taking turns and do it effortlessly and without prompting by the childminder. Children manage their own personal needs independently, only requiring assistance from the childminder for difficulties, such as when a zip threads awkwardly. The childminder encourages children's independence through her positive 'you can do it' attitude. This helps children to flourish and become strong, independent young people. Children have excellent relationships with each other and with the childminder.

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

- The childminder uses her many years of experience to create an extremely proficient, high standard provision for children. She continuously updates her knowledge, for example, through training and research and keeps fully abreast of changes in guidance and local procedures. The childminder not only completes training, she demonstrates how she uses her new-found knowledge to enhance the lives of the children she cares for.
- Parents play a very active role in the childminder's provision. She asks them to complete an annual questionnaire to provide her with feedback, which she uses to further develop and enhance her provision. Questionnaire responses reviewed during the inspection show that parents are extremely happy with the care their children receive from the childminder. They comment on how she uses her expert knowledge and many years of experience to help their children to develop to their full potential.
- The childminder asks children to give her feedback on how they feel about her childminding. Drawings and written responses show that children thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder. Many write a list of the things they like about being cared for by the childminder and the wide range of activities they do with her.
- The childminder skilfully extends children's language and communication skills as she confidently, but calmly speaks to them throughout the day. She expertly asks appropriate questions to fire their imagination and to encourage them to

think deeper. The childminder introduces new language and reminds them about conversations they have had in the past.

- The childminder actively encourages outdoor learning. She comments that she learned to develop her love of the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic, when much of her provision was delivered in her garden. The childminder found that children learn and engage more effectively outdoors and has continued to develop this strategy for learning.
- The childminder makes excellent use of the local community to further enhance children's learning experiences. They walk in the large local country park, visit the library, do traffic surveys by logging how many different vehicles they see and go to the many different parks in the local area.
- Children become totally engrossed in literacy as they and the childminder engage in exciting reading opportunities. The childminder captures the interests of children, especially those less interested in books and stories, by developing appropriate visual prompts. For example, she and the children read a favourite story, where a caterpillar eats lots of different foods. The children find, count and post laminated, hand-drawn discs with pictures of the foods into a caterpillar decorated tin. Both the childminder and children writhe around the floor being lizards as they read a rhyming story about animals and how they move.

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	202462
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10305109
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	1 to 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	12 February 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1992 and lives in Colchester, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lynn Hughes

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The childminder showed the inspector all areas of their premises 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 about what they enjoy doing while with the childminder.
- 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.
- The childminder provided the inspector with written testimonials from parents, which the inspector took into account.
- 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.

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 2024