

Childminder report

Inspection date: 21 October 2021

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	Not applicable
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are confident, happy, and secure in the childminder's warm and welcoming home. They benefit from a wide range of resources and toys, which they can safely help themselves to. The childminder frequently changes what is on offer to keep children interested and motivated to learn. Children especially enjoy being outside. They practise their physical skills by balancing on stepping stones, kicking balls, and riding small bikes.

Children are beginning to be independent and take great pride in doing things for themselves. They put on their own boots, hats, and coats before going in the garden. The childminder teaches children to put toys away when they have finished playing and children have a good knowledge of where each resource goes. Children behave and play well together. They are developing good manners and are beginning to understand about being kind and thoughtful to others. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the childminder remained open when possible and maintained contact with families, who were subject to the lockdown restrictions. On occasions, she organised her daily walk so that children could wave to her from their homes. This helped to sustain the good relationships with parents and keep the strong bonds with the children she cares for.

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

- The childminder finds lots of interesting activities for children to do in their local community and beyond. Children look forward to their visits to the animal park and have great fun playing in the autumn leaves. The childminder recognises children's good physical abilities, such as climbing. She ensures her planned trips provide children with further safe but challenging opportunities to practise their skills.
- Children have plenty of opportunities to develop a love of reading and writing. They like nothing better than looking at books or listening to the childminder skilfully reading stories. Children are totally absorbed in the tales they hear and readily comment or point at the pictures they see.
- The childminder recognises the importance of children being able to communicate effectively. Throughout the day, she talks about everything she does and gives children time to share their comments and ideas. The childminder introduces new words and phrases during her conversations. She knows that children quickly learn from these experiences and how this further develops their understanding and speech.
- Even young children are beginning to develop their early mathematical skills. They count as they play and can recognise circles and triangles. Children enjoy sorting their chinks into different pots.
- The childminder has a secure understanding of how children learn. She makes

sure the activities she plans capture children's interests. Children are motivated to join in. The childminder ensures the curriculum is broad and children gradually gain the skills needed for their future learning. However, she is still finding ways to help young children learn about their feelings and emotions.

- Children's good health is well protected in the care of the childminder. She ensures her home is spotlessly clean and teaches children about essential hygiene, such as handwashing after using the toilet. Children learn about the importance of good oral health during playful activities.
- The childminder reflects on her practice regularly and invites parents to share feedback about the service she provides. She values their comments and works hard to be as flexible as possible to accommodate the working patterns and needs of each family. Parents offer high praise in the questionnaires they regularly complete. They acknowledge how much the children learn from the childminder and report that she always provides 'fun and interesting' activities.
- The childminder is enthusiastic and truly enjoys her role. She places a high priority on her professional development and is currently undertaking a childcare qualification at level 3. She liaises with childminding colleagues, and this too helps her to stay up to date in childcare practices.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding and how to keep children safe. She knows how to recognise and report any concerns she has about children in her care. She attends regular training and understands about wider issues, such as her responsibilities under the 'Prevent' duty. The childminder's home is secure, and she is aware of how to keep children safe when out and about. She has the necessary policies to support her practice, and these are shared with parents appropriately.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen the curriculum further to give children more opportunities to learn about identifying and coping with their feelings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2515718
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10207906
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	5
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2019 and lives in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. She operates Monday to Thursday from 8am to 6pm, and Friday from 8am to 5pm, all year round except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 2. The childminder provides funded early education for two-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqueline Baker

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 childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation.
- The childminder and inspector completed a learning walk together and discussed how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- Children spoke to the inspector about the activities they were doing.
- The inspector and childminder completed a joint evaluation of an activity.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living and working in the household.
- The inspector read parental feedback forms and took account of the views expressed.

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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