

Childminder report

Inspection date: 9 May 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care. They form caring relationships and engage enthusiastically with her as they play with the good range of resources inside and outdoors. The childminder has high expectations of children. She praises them and they behave very well. The childminder supports most of the younger children to develop their communication and language skills, for example by singing songs and sharing books. She helps to prepare older children for starting school. For example, she supports them to develop their physical skills for writing and to recognise their name.

Children benefit from a curriculum that offers a wide range of learning experiences. Overall, they are engaged and show good levels of concentration. The childminder knows the children well, plans for their individual needs effectively and monitors their progress in partnerships with parents and other settings. Parents receive regular updates about their children's learning and how they can support this at home. Children make good progress in their development. The childminder arranges personalised visits for parents and their children before they start with her. This helps her to cater for their individual needs.

The childminder has supported children and parents well during the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, she has increased the frequency of handwashing and cleaning of resources, and parents do not enter the home to help to reduce the risk of infection and keep children safe.

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

- The childminder has strong working relationships with parents. They speak positively of her and say that she provides a warm and homely environment. Parents feel that their children are supported and nurtured. They say that they are very satisfied with their childcare experience.
- The childminder helps children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. She implements a healthy eating policy and teaches children about healthy foods, for example by growing fruit and vegetables in the garden. The children have a range of opportunities to be physically active at the setting. For example, they play on the trampoline, ride the trikes and go for walks.
- The childminder promotes children's confidence and independence consistently. For example, she encourages children to help with daily routines, such as tidying up and giving out drinks and snacks. Furthermore, the children have personalised single-use towels for drying their hands and to support them with colour recognition.
- Children enjoy looking at books, sharing stories and singing songs. The childminder uses books throughout her practice to support children's learning.

For example, she uses books to develop the most confident children's language and to encourage them to ask their own questions.

- The childminder plans effectively for the children's next steps in learning. She provides a broad range of learning experiences that are based on planned activities and the children's interests. Children use a wide range of resources to practise their fine motor control, and the childminder uses her good teaching skills to encourage children's mathematical development. For example, children enjoy singing songs throughout the day to build on their counting skills.
- The childminder engages well with parents and others in the locality to create a community spirit. For example, the children have recently baked cakes with their families and held a cake sale at the setting as part of a community fundraising event.
- The childminder models speaking and listening well. However, on occasions, she misses opportunities to engage, support and extend some quieter children's language development.
- The childminder reflects on her practice and where she can make further improvements. She has started to teach children about diversity. However, she plans fewer opportunities to teach children about different cultures beyond their local community. The childminder has effective systems in place for the supervision of her assistant.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues and is clear about her role and responsibilities to safeguard children. She keeps her safeguarding knowledge up to date. The childminder knows the signs that indicate a child may be at risk of harm. She understands the correct procedures to follow in the event of a concern about a child's welfare. The childminder manages risks to children effectively by carrying out frequent risk assessments.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- support quieter children to develop their communication and language skills further
- provide more opportunities for children to learn about cultural diversity beyond their local community.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2521796
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10208098
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	7
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2019 and lives in Cowley, Devon. She provides Steiner-inspired care on Monday and Tuesday during term time only. The childminder holds a Diploma in Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Studies at level 4. She works with an assistant, who holds a National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Health and Social Care (Children and Young People). The setting is called 'Root Children'. The childminder provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Leanne Galloway

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 of the setting.
- The childminder gave the inspector a tour of the premises. She talked about children's learning and progress and how she delivers the curriculum.
- The inspector read feedback from parents about the childminder and took account of their views.
- A range of the childminder's documentation was reviewed by the inspector, including qualification certificates.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her assistant and the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector and the childminder observed children during activities and had a follow-up discussion about children's learning and development.

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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