

Childminder report

Inspection date:

28 April 2022

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

All children respond exceptionally well to the childminder's high expectations for their enjoyment and learning. They are remarkably eager to join in with activities and show that they feel extremely safe. From a young age, children show an excellent ability to think for themselves and solve problems. For example, when they see some food on the floor, they know exactly where to find a small broom and eagerly set about sweeping it up. They smile proudly as the childminder praises them for their helpful behaviour. Children show a real enjoyment of listening to stories and rhymes. They confidently operate a voice-activated device to choose and play their preferred songs. This is one of the many highly engaging routines that children eagerly look forward to sharing with the childminder.

Children show an exceptional drive to master new challenges. They listen carefully to the childminder's instructions, before having a go on the swing. Children persevere and revisit the task to help them build up the strength and momentum to keep swinging. Often, this sense of determination helps to motivate others to give it a go too. Children are highly supportive of each other. They offer words of encouragement and celebrate their success. For example, they cheer each other on while taking part in a mini-obstacle course to celebrate the Olympics.

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

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, children's well-being and progress continued to be a priority. The childminder worked tirelessly to keep in touch with families and maintain a superb bond with children. For example, the childminder held storytelling sessions online for children to enjoy. Since returning to the setting, children settle extremely well and continue to make excellent progress in their learning.
- Observations and assessments of children's learning are insightful and precise. The childminder identifies and plans very successfully for what children need to learn next. She meticulously considers children's interests and prior knowledge when planning activities. The childminder makes excellent use of local amenities and places of interest to widen children's real-life experiences. For example, children find out how tickets are used when they take a trip on a train.
- The childminder is experienced in supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). She draws on this expertise to develop very effective strategies to support children with SEND and their parents. Advice from outside professionals is swiftly implemented in the setting and the childminder has completed more advanced special educational needs coordinator training. This helps her to provide a truly inclusive approach for all children.
- The childminder has excellent understanding of the importance of promoting children's physical development. She provides an array of equipment and plenty

of space outdoors for children to refine their coordination, balance and climbing skills. Children are actively encouraged to take risks, with close supervision to ensure their safety. This contributes greatly to children's confidence, resilience and their rapid development of new physical skills.

- The childminder encourages children to explore aspects of a healthy lifestyle at every opportunity. She provides meaningful explanations to help younger children gain a deeper understanding of the importance of routines, such as regular handwashing. Children enjoy using toothbrushes to clean the teeth of toy dinosaurs. The childminder skilfully guides them to make superb connections with their own experiences of brushing their teeth at home.
- The childminder has a highly effective two-way exchange of information with parents. This helps to provide excellent continuity for children and enriches their experiences even further. The childminder works very closely with parents. They happily support the childminder's plans to help enhance their children's self-care skills. For example, parents are keen to provide shoes, like those their children will wear to school, to help children to practise putting them on at the setting.
- The childminder is extremely proactive with her own professional development. She takes up many opportunities to enhance her knowledge and skills. For example, the childminder is undertaking further training to learn how to use sign language. This training is very securely linked to her plans to enrich the already excellent support for children's communication and language.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She demonstrates an unquestionable commitment to following up any concerns about a child's welfare. This includes making a prompt referral to the local safeguarding partnership where appropriate. The childminder has a very secure knowledge of wider safeguarding concerns, including the risks associated with children's experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are robust arrangements in place to ensure the ongoing suitability of household members and visitors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2524420
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10221445
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 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	14
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2019 and lives in Thetford, Norfolk. She operates all year round from 7am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Clements

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The childminder and inspector completed a tour of all areas used for childminding and discussed how the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of interactions during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact these have on children's learning.
- Children spoke to the inspector at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- Parents shared their views in discussion and written testimonials, and the inspector took these into account.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of all persons living at the setting.

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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