

Childminder report

Inspection date: 11 August 2025

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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and have fun. They feel safe and secure in the care of the childminder, who is attentive to their individual needs. Young children receive cuddles and reassurance when they find it hard to be separate from their parents and/or carers. The childminder ensures that they have their comforters when needed, and these are placed away once children have settled. All children enjoy lots of fresh air outdoors in the garden. The childminder supports their curiosity for learning and invites them to engage in different opportunities to play and learn. Older children enjoy climbing up the play apparatus and sliding down the twisty slide. They pretend it is a rocket and that they are going to blast off into space. The childminder enhances this imaginary play for children. He introduces mathematics as he suggests they count down from 10 and rocks the play apparatus gently to simulate the rocket blasting off. This makes the children laugh and giggle in delight.

Children are learning to share and take turns. Overall, children behave well. If they do display any unwanted behaviour, the childminder explains they need to share or give something back that they may have taken. Children also say sorry to their friends if they have taken something without asking. This helps children to understand the consequences of their actions and learn right from wrong.

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

- The childminder has not always notified Ofsted of changes that he should have done, and this is a breach in requirements and an offence. For example, building works have taken place. However, the childminder made a full risk assessment while the building work was undertaken. This has had a positive impact for children as the overall space is now larger, and access to the outdoor environment is easier.
- There have been some recent changes to the household, which Ofsted was not notified of within 14 days. Again, this is a breach in requirements and an offence. Regular visitors to the household require Ofsted to undertake suitability checks. As we have not been informed, this has not been able to take place. However, the childminder does not leave children alone unsupervised. In addition, the regular visitor does have some checks already in place, such as a Disclosure and Barring Service check. This minimises any risk or impact to children.
- The childminder's curriculum is unique to each individual child according to their needs. It is designed to help promote learning for children and give them opportunities to develop into confident learners. For example, children who may be less confident in walking are provided with lots of opportunities to practise their physical skills. They navigate the different levels in the childminder's garden.

independently, but still under the watchful eye of the childminder to ensure their safety.

- The childminder knows all the children extremely well. He gathers detailed information from parents when children first start. This information is used to provide activities that he knows children will enjoy. Children are making progress and acquiring the skills needed for their next stage of learning and eventual move to school.
- Children enjoy literacy. They sit together looking at books. The childminder promotes children's critical-thinking skills as he asks them questions about the books and links this to real-life experiences for them to embed the learning.
- Children can recall past knowledge they have learned. They sing nursery rhymes off by heart. Children enjoy making pretend cups of tea and offering these to their friends and visitors. They know you need hot water to make tea and that you need to be careful.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Parents write about how much they value the childminder and how he has helped their children make so much progress. They explain that the childminder is a positive role model for their children and that everyone needs someone like him in a child's life to make a difference. Children exclaim out loud that they love the childminder.
- Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported. The childminder prides himself on providing a fully inclusive service to all children. He ensures that they get access to appropriate support and learning opportunities. This means children make the progress they are capable of.
- Children benefit from freshly prepared snacks and hot meals. A strong focus is given to children gaining independent self-care skills such as toilet training and accessing the toilet independently. However, good hygiene practices could be embedded further so that children learn about how to keep themselves healthy.
- The childminder supports children to make bird feeders using lard and bird seed pressed into coconut shells. This helps children to strengthen the muscles in their fingers. That said, more opportunities to practise these skills could be offered.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
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submit appropriate forms to Ofsted for regular visitors so that suitability checks can be undertaken.	29/08/2025
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- embed hygiene practices further so that children learn how to keep themselves healthy
- provide more opportunities for children to practise their small-muscle skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2534293
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10412150
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	25 January 2022

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2019 and lives in Blythe Bridge. He operates all year round, from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Sunday, except for one week at Christmas and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Johanna Holt

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how he ensures that they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises his early years provision, including the aims and rationale for his early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while with the childminder.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided outdoors, and assessed the impact that this is having on the children's learning.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- The inspector read written feedback provided by parents and took into account their views.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.

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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