

Childminder report

Inspection date: 27 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 settled in the childminder's nurturing care. The childminder gathers a range of information before children start and plans flexible settling-in sessions with families. The childminder gets to know the families she works with very well and ensures that she meets the needs of all the children. Children have developed strong attachments with the childminder and clearly feel very comfortable in her care. Children say the best thing about going to the childminder's house is the childminder herself.

The childminder is a good role model for the children. She makes sure that the children understand boundaries and how to behave. The childminder teaches children to be kind and respectful of each other and their environment. Children understand that they need to take turns when using some equipment. They show empathy for each other, offering a cuddle, when one of their friends is upset. Children have good manners and behave very well. They know to say please and thank you, to each other and the childminder.

The childminder supports children to learn strong independence skills. Children learn to use the toilet unaided and to wash and dry their hands. They learn how to handle scissors safely, as the childminder reminds them to store these with blades down. Children understand that they need to tidy away their toys before getting additional resources out. They are eager to help the childminder to wipe the table before lunch. The childminder prepares the children well for when it is time for them to move on to school. She reads stories about starting school, introduces school uniforms for the children to dress up in and takes them on visits to their new school, where they get to meet their new teacher.

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

- The childminder holds a high-level childcare qualification and has significant experience in caring for children. She is committed to continuing her professional development. All mandatory training, such as a qualification in paediatric first aid and child protection, is up to date. The childminder has a secure knowledge of what to do if a child has an accident while in her care. Over the years, the childminder has completed a wealth of courses to further enhance her knowledge and skills. More recently, she has completed a course linked to outdoor learning in the early years. She is using the knowledge gained to enrich minded children's learning experiences outdoors.
- All children, including those who speak English as an additional language, benefit from a language-rich environment. The childminder talks easily with the children. She introduces new words and consistently uses good-quality conversations. The childminder pauses, encouraging children to fill gaps in

sentences and asks questions, encouraging them to recall previous events.

- Children choose from a variety of activities within a well-resourced learning environment. They strengthen their fingers as they roll and mould play dough. They use their imagination to make a skirt and shoes out of play dough. Children have great fun as they try on wigs and outfits, pretending to be pirates and princesses. They can freely paint onto clear acrylic sheets and 'read' stories, guiding an electronic pen over the text. Overall, the childminder demonstrates effective teaching techniques as she gets down to the children's level. However, adult-led activities are not always well planned, to encourage children to persevere with a task, particularly when trying something new.
- Children benefit from a wide range of opportunities to engage in activities outside of the home. All outings are planned and risk assessed. Children learn about planting and growing fruit and vegetables at the childminder's allotment. They explore the natural world at the local forest school and farm park. They take part in everyday activities, such as visiting the library or shops. Children have opportunities to build wider relationships when they attend a local toddler group and other child-friendly spaces. This helps to build children's confidence and enhance their social skills.
- Many of the families have been using the childminder's services for a number of years. Partnerships with parents are very strong. The childminder works closely with parents, keeping them up to date about their children's progress. She offers ideas and strategies to help parents to support their children's learning and development at home. Parents are highly appreciative and say the childminder is 'very important in our children's lives'.
- Overall, the childminder's home is safe and secure. Children are well supervised. However, the childminder has not yet safely sited, or effectively risk assessed, recently purchased garden play equipment, so that it is ready for all children to use safely.

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

- review and enhance the planning and delivery of adult-led activities, in order to better support children to persevere, particularly when trying something new
- review risk assessments, to ensure that these include all large play equipment, so that the equipment is safely sited and ready for children to use.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2577845
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10406469
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 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	13
Date of previous inspection	14 April 2023

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2020 and lives in Ipswich, Suffolk. She provides care all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. The childminder provides funded early education for children. She holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Dawn Pointer

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following a notification that we received from the childminder.
- The inspector talked about how the curriculum is organised with the childminder and what she wants the children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education, inside and outside, and assessed the impact that this was having on the children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times.
- The inspector observed an activity that the childminder had planned and discussed this with the childminder afterwards.
- The inspector spoke with the children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through written testimonials.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of the childminder.

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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