

Childminder report

Inspection date: 21 October 2022

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

The childminder provides a safe and welcoming environment. Children are happy and settled. They part from their parents with ease and confidently make choices on where and what they want to play with. Children show high levels of curiosity as they explore toy spiders in jelly. They squeal and giggle with delight as the childminder and her assistant sing 'Incy Wincy Spider'. Children develop their awareness of number as they excitedly help to count the spiders' legs. Furthermore, the childminder effectively introduces unfamiliar vocabulary such as 'squelchy' and 'wobble' as the children eagerly investigate.

The childminder has high expectations of children's behaviour. She encourages them to use their manners. Young children remember to say 'please' and 'thank you' and cover their mouths when they cough. They are learning not to spread germs. Children learn about showing kindness to each other and how to share. The childminder uses high levels of praise and encouragement. This helps children to feel confident in their own abilities and to build self-esteem. Children respond positively to the childminder and each other. They are starting to develop good social skills. Children form strong attachments and feel safe.

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

- The childminder speaks passionately about her role. She knows the children well and is attentive to their needs. She carefully divides her time between the children. She observes them closely and makes effective use of what she knows to build on children's previous knowledge. She plans for children's learning well and provides a good balance of adult led and child-initiated activities, which build on their interests.
- The childminder offers a broad curriculum that prepares children for their future learning. She recognises that there may need to be a greater focus on communication and language for some children. As a result, the childminder provides lots of opportunities to help children to become confident communicators. All children excitedly join in singing a wide selection of action songs and rhymes alongside the childminder and assistant. Children eagerly choose musical instruments to play and enjoy exploring the different sounds they make.
- Children enthusiastically choose storybooks and snuggle in for cuddles as the childminder and assistant read to them. They model speech clearly, and skilfully keep children captivated as they change their voice and make sounds. This helps to support children's early literacy skills. Children demonstrate well-developed physical skills as they carefully lift flaps and turn pages.
- The childminder encourages children to develop healthy lifestyles. For example, she provides nutritious, home-cooked meals and fresh fruit for snacks. Children

are encouraged to drink plenty of water to keep them hydrated. They have daily opportunities to explore the outdoors and learn about the world around them. Children especially enjoy visiting the local woodland and park. The childminder regularly takes children to local playgroups to help them socialise with others.

- The childminder provides lots of opportunities for children to develop their understanding of mathematics. Children explore puzzles and the childminder effectively encourages them to keep trying when they become frustrated. This helps to build resilience and independence. In addition, the assistant helps children learn about size during their play by comparing different shapes. Children collect and count objects when tidying away activities.
- Relationships with parents are strong. They are happy with the care and education their children receive and make positive comments. There is a two-way flow of information, and the childminder sends parents regular photos of their children engaged in activities during the day. However, the childminder does not maximise opportunities to work in partnership with other settings to improve the consistency in children's experiences and learning.
- The childminder and assistant complete all mandatory training as is required and carry out their own research. However, reflective practice is not always maximised to identify more targeted areas for professional development or to review the impact of this on children's learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder and her assistant have clear knowledge of the signs that may indicate children are at risk of harm. This includes reporting any concerns about other adults working with children or household members. They can talk in confidence about what they would do in a range of different scenarios. The childminder completes rigorous risk assessments to ensure children are safe in the home and while on outings. She ensures that the premises are secure so that children cannot leave unsupervised and unwanted visitors cannot gain entry. She encourages children to tidy up after themselves.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen systems to work in partnership with other settings, to provide continuity in children's care routines and learning
- use reflection more effectively to identify specific areas for continued professional development and review the impact of this on children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2580013
Local authority	Middlesbrough
Inspection number	10250981
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 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	15
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2020 and lives in the Coulby Newham area of Middlesbrough. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. Overnight care is also available if requested. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and works alongside an assistant.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Nicola Coverdale

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The childminder showed the inspector around the premises and the resources available.
- The inspector observed the activities taking place and evaluated how well the childminder and her assistant interacted with the children to support their learning.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.

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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