

Childminder report

Inspection date: 27 June 2023

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

The childminder's nurturing approach helps children to feel safe and secure in her care. Children show a strong sense of belonging. For example, when they feel tired, they take off their shoes, climb on to the sofa with a blanket and go to sleep. They show much confidence, eagerly approaching visitors to show them the activities they are enjoying. The childminder understands how to encourage children's positive behaviour. She ensures that children have plenty of attention and activities to avoid them becoming restless. Her frequent, gentle prompts and reminders help children to understand her expectations and boundaries. Children listen and respond and behave well.

The childminder's experience and qualifications contribute to her good teaching. She focuses her ambitious curriculum around children's interests. Overall, this ignites their curiosity and encourages them to engage in well-planned learning opportunities. For example, the childminder uses children's love of a familiar book as a basis for her teaching. Children become more confident to explore textures when they smear paint on paper to make a butterfly print. They learn about nature when they grow cress seeds and grass in the shape of a caterpillar. The childminder provides foods that characters eat in the story, helping children to learn about a healthy diet.

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

- The childminder observes children at play to identify their current abilities. She then uses her findings to focus her teaching on what children need to learn next. This helps children to build progressively on what they already know and can do. They make good progress, often exceeding expected levels of development for their age in some areas of learning.
- Children show awe and wonder in their learning. For example, they exclaim 'wow!' when they watch butterflies that have emerged from a cocoon. At times, however, some children move quickly between activities. They are not always offered the support needed to sustain their concentration and attention to make the best possible progress.
- Overall, children make good progress in their language and communication development. Their good understanding skills are demonstrated when, for example, they follow complex instructions. However, the childminder does not consistently use clear and simple speech to help younger children learn how to pronounce words correctly. Furthermore, young children use dummies while playing. This hinders their own ability to speak clearly.
- Parents are fully assured that their children are safe and happy. They say the childminder 'loves them as much as I do'. The childminder shares key messages with parents and other professionals about children's care and learning.

However, the arrangements for sharing information with parents about how they can support their children's learning further at home are not yet fully embedded.

- The childminder is committed to ongoing improvement. She reviews her practice to enhance children's learning experiences. For example, she has provided more physically challenging equipment in her garden as children grow older and more able. Recent training has helped her to refresh her knowledge of, and to strengthen, her early years curriculum.
- Children benefit from outings that form an integral part of the childminder's curriculum. They build on their experiences during walks in the park and by the river. They develop confidence and social skills when they experience being part of a larger group during community group activities.
- The childminder encourages children's self-help skills and independence. For example, she sensitively supports children who are toilet training, helping them to manage their clothing and wash their hands. Children eagerly help to clean the table before snack and make good attempts to cut their fruit, safely and with help from the childminder.
- Children benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise, which helps to promote their physical health. The childminder provides toothbrushes for the children. She brushes her own teeth alongside them and makes the experience fun. This encourages good habits in children and helps them to understand the importance of good dental hygiene.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder maintains her knowledge of safeguarding legislation and guidance by checking relevant websites and referring to local authority guides. She builds on her own knowledge of how to identify children at risk from harm or abuse, for example, by attending relevant training courses. This helps her to understand more about the dangers posed in the community, for instance, from extreme views and behaviours. The childminder ensures that her home is safe. Ongoing checks help her to identify further ways to protect children, for example by installing latches high up on doors when children grow tall enough to reach the handle.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- develop further ways to help children to maintain their attention and concentration during activities
- enhance strategies used to encourage children's speaking skills more consistently
- strengthen partnerships with parents to help them to support and extend their children's learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2635162
Local authority	Sunderland
Inspection number	10295670
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 2
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	1
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in June 2021 and lives in Sunderland. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds a relevant early years qualification at level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Clare Wilkins

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder has 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 her evaluation.
- The childminder showed the inspector around the areas of her home used for childcare. She discussed her early years curriculum and how she organises her provision.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of parents' views from written feedback provided.

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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