

Childminder report

Inspection date: 15 June 2023

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

Children thrive in the care of this kind, nurturing childminder. They immerse themselves in the high-quality learning opportunities she provides through a thoughtfully-planned curriculum. Children show they are emotionally safe and secure. They talk to each other, narrate and sing to themselves as they play. Children are extremely confident and social. Their behaviour is exemplary, and they show positive attitudes towards their learning. Children share and ask each other to take turns. They use good manners, saying 'please' and 'thank you'.

Children take part in various trips and outings, where they gain a deep understanding of the natural world and a great curiosity and enthusiasm to explore. They join in weekly sessions of forest schools, where they learn how to be creative using natural resources. Children's learning extends to the outdoor area, which enhances their physical development. For example, children adeptly use swings and monkey bars, demonstrating and encouraging their younger peers to grab on. The childminder takes every opportunity to encourage children to learn something new or practise a skill they have recently learned, such as walking on a balancing beam.

Children move around with ease and confidence in the well-organised and meticulously planned play areas. Children engage in activities and show sustained levels of concentration when trying new experiences. For example, they use a play drill to screw in toy flowers. They talk about 'stalks' and 'stems' as they skilfully place them on the platform and carefully drill them in.

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

- The childminder is extremely passionate about providing children with the highest quality care and education. For instance, she gathers precise information about them through her discussions with parents and her comprehensive assessments. The childminder plans an exciting and challenging curriculum built on what the children already know, to broaden their knowledge and understanding.
- The childminder's understanding of how children learn is exceptional, and her teaching is excellent. Children make rapid progress and acquire the skills they need for successful future learning. For example, while playing with a role-play shop, children learn the concepts of selling and buying. They spontaneously count correctly in sequences up to 10, negotiate payments and learn new language that comes with it. The childminder supports the children in their play, offering sensitive guidance and prompting conversations.
- The childminder places a strong focus on developing children's language and communication, which is extremely good. The environment is rich in language

opportunities. The childminder models good communication skills and understands the importance of asking open-ended questions. Children are offered ample time to think and process information before they respond. For example, she asks the children what shape their 'seed bombs' are. Children confidently answer 'circle'. The childminder skilfully and positively introduces new vocabulary, such as 'sphere'.

- The childminder treats children with great consideration. They are given ample opportunities to encourage their independence from a very young age. For instance, children wash their hands before a cooking activity. They show high levels of determination to prepare their own pizzas, to spread the sauce evenly and arrange their toppings. Children put their shoes and sun hats on before they leave for the garden. This demonstrates that children apply the acquired knowledge and skills the childminder has taught them previously.
- Parents speak extremely highly of the childminder and the excellent service she provides. They describe the 'abundance of opportunities' their children are offered and that the childminder provides as 'high-quality care and education'. Parents describe the progress their children have made and comment that communication shared by the childminder is highly informative. They value the support, suggestions and advice she offers.
- The childminder is incredibly ambitious, strives for excellence and tries to make a meaningful difference to all children in her care. She makes excellent use of training, research and webinar opportunities to continually enrich her skills and knowledge. For example, she has recently completed a self-regulation course to help her in enabling children to manage their own feelings, build their resilience and learn how to positively cope with the changes in their lives, such as future transitions to school.
- The childminder works closely with other childminders in the local vicinity and is an important part in the local childminding community. She is continually looking for ways to improve her already excellent practice and shares her learning and expertise with others through regular gatherings and by leading extra-curricular activities.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of how to safeguard children. She knows what to do if she has a concern about a child's welfare. The childminder keeps her knowledge up to date and is fully trained in safeguarding. She is aware of a wide range of safeguarding matters and has clear and robust policies and procedures in place, in line with the local arrangements. The childminder is aware of what action to take if an allegation is made against herself or a household member. She is extremely well organised and prepared in the event of an emergency. She wears a lanyard with emergency details and has an evacuation bag prepared for any contingency plans.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2636340
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10289510
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	2 to 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder was registered in 2021 and lives in Colchester. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds qualified teacher status.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marta Kellouche

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider 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 and the inspector completed a learning walk together to discuss the childminder's intentions for children's learning.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children.
- The childminder and inspector discussed how the curriculum has been implemented and the impact that this had on children's learning.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of the childminder and other household members.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023