

Childminder report

Inspection date: 5 November 2024

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 provides a welcoming and nurturing environment, where children display a strong sense of belonging. Children are excited to attend and freely access the stimulating range of play equipment. The childminder forms secure relationships with children and provides them with reassurance as needed. Children show positive attitudes towards their play and are active learners. For example, they giggle with delight as they squash and squeeze dough with their fingers to make 'birthday cakes'. Activities such as these, help children to develop their small muscles in preparation for later writing.

The childminder has a clear understanding of what she wants children to learn and why. A key focus of the curriculum is outdoor play. The childminder plans many exciting opportunities for children to learn about the local community. For instance, children learn about the natural world and the change in seasons as they enjoy collecting leaves on autumn walks.

Children know the routines well and understand that before snack, they tidy up some of the activities they have been engaging in. Children are learning to take care of their environment. The childminder has effective systems in place to help her to get to know the children well before they begin in the setting. She offers home visits during settling-in time to help children and parents build positive relationships with her. The childminder gathers key information from parents about what children already know and can do to identify starting points for their learning.

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

- The dedicated childminder has very positive relationships with parents. She communicates regularly with them in a variety of ways, to help them keep up to date with their children's progress. The childminder shares ideas of how to extend children's learning at home. This helps to promote continuity in care and learning. Parents praise the childminder for the care that she provides to their children and the help and advice she gives to them.
- Generally, the childminder supports children's language and communication skills well. She talks to the children about what they are doing and introduces new words to help extend their growing vocabulary. Although the childminder reads books regularly with the children, they are unable to freely choose to look at books as they are stored too high up and out of their reach. This does not fully support children's passion for independent reading.
- Maths is weaved throughout the activities of the day. The childminder introduces mathematical vocabulary while playing with children. This helps children to count items very well and use maths language in their play, talking about filling items 'to the top' and labelling things by size.

- The childminder reflects on her practice and identifies areas she can develop to enhance children's experiences in her care. She accesses online training and webinars to continually improve her knowledge. For instance, recent training has developed her understanding of how to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Overall, the childminder teaches children well about the importance of healthy living. For instance, she provides nutritious food and regular play outdoors where children benefit from exercise and fresh air. However, at times, the childminder does not effectively support children to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands after wiping their noses. This does not fully promote their understanding of practices that contribute towards good health.
- The childminder establishes routines into the day to help children to develop their independence. Children become increasingly confident in managing their own self-care needs. For instance, they learn to use the toilet independently and put on their boots and coats for outdoor play. This helps children to gain the necessary independence in readiness for school.
- The childminder provides experiences and interactions which help children to make good progress. For instance, they visit local toddler groups where they can play with a wider group of children and build their social skills. Children explore special days throughout the year. For example, children enjoy making lanterns at Chinese New Year. This supports children to develop respect and understanding for people who are different to them.
- The childminder is consistent when managing children's behaviour, which helps children feel safe and settled. She is a good role model and is calm and relaxed in her approach, speaking to children in a gentle way.

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 the organisation of the learning environment so that children can access books more freely, to support their interest in books
- help children to develop an understanding of how hygiene practices contribute towards good health.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2686211
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	10360138
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 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2022 and is located in Crowthorne, Berkshire. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. The childminder provides government funded early years places. She has an early years qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sarah Richards

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises their early years provision, including the aims and rationale for their curriculum.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while with 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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