

Childminder report

Inspection date: 31 January 2025

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

Children are very happy in the childminder's care. They demonstrate this as they play with the childminder and are keen to suggest songs they can sing. The childminder quickly identifies when children appear slightly unsettled. She provides cuddles and reassurance to help children to calm down and settle. Parents comment that the childminder treats children like members of her own family. They say their children love seeing the childminder and put their arms out to greet her in the morning. The childminder gives parents information about how they can keep their children safe online. Children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, the childminder teaches children how to use knives to cut fruit.

The childminder's curriculum is generally ambitious. She helps children to develop the skills they need for school or nursery. For example, children sit and listen to stories and enjoy song time. Children behave well. The childminder has clear rules and expectations, which she consistently reinforces. This is evident as she reminds children to sit on the sofa or to help to tidy up. Children follow the childminder's instructions.

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

- The childminder knows what children are interested in. She plans her environment to support children's interests. Children thoroughly enjoy playing in the toy kitchen. They pretend to prepare food and make bottles for the baby dolls. Children concentrate well.
- The childminder helps children to understand how to keep themselves healthy. She teaches children the importance of washing their hands before eating or after blowing their noses. Children enjoy a range of healthy foods, such as fruit and vegetables. They enjoy fresh air and exercise, such as when they visit the park nearby.
- The childminder knows where children are in their learning and identifies what they need to learn next. She makes good use of opportunities to reinforce further learning. For example, as children sing number rhymes, such as 'Three Little Speckled Frogs,' she encourages children to count how many are left using their fingers.
- The childminder's curriculum is generally well sequenced, particularly for younger children. However, the childminder lacks a thorough understanding of how to support older children's literacy and mathematical skills. As a result, sometimes, the childminder teaches children skills, such as recognising numbers, before they have an understanding of numbers and quantities.
- The childminder supports children's communication effectively. She plays with children and engages in back-and-forth conversations with them. She comments on what children are doing and expands their vocabulary where appropriate. The

childminder uses songs and books to develop children's language further. For example, as they look at books, they talk about what the animals are doing and have a conversation about washing clothes.

- The childminder attends a range of training. She has recently identified training to develop her knowledge and skills further. However, the childminder's programme of professional development is not sufficiently focused on how she can support children's learning even further.
- Children enjoy looking at books. The childminder has a variety of books for children to choose. Children are engaged as she reads books to them and encourages them to talk about the illustrations. Children learn how to handle books and understand the difference between print and illustrations.
- The childminder has a good relationship with parents overall. She works extremely well with parents as they support children through different phases in their development, such as toilet training or eating. The childminder talks to parents about what children are doing and how they can help them at home. She also finds out what children are doing at home and builds on this. However, the childminder does not consistently share further information about the early years curriculum so that parents understand how they can support their children's stage of development even more effectively.

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:

- strengthen understanding of the order in which older children develop their literacy and mathematics skills
- focus professional development more sharply on raising children's achievement even further
- provide more information about the early years curriculum to help parents to understand how they can support their children's stage of development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2698230
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10372165
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 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 registered in 2022 and lives in Peterlee, County Durham. She operates all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She offers government funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Elizabeth Fish

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector around her home and explained how she organises her curriculum.
- The inspector observed children playing and learning.
- The childminder and inspector evaluated an activity.
- Parents provided written feedback for the purpose of the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to children and the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The childminder showed the inspector a range of documents, including those relating to her suitability, as well as members of her household.
- The inspector explored how the childminder keeps children safe and manages her provision.

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 2025