

Childminder report

Inspection date: 9 April 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

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment for all children. Children are very happy. They demonstrate this as they come to the childminder for cuddles or snuggle next to her as they look at books together. Parents comment that their children love going to the childminder's house. They say she provides a wealth of activities. The childminder helps children to understand how they can keep themselves safe. For example, she teaches children to hold hands when they are outside. When children have snack, they learn to use knives to cut the fruit. Good support from the childminder helps children to understand to keep their fingers out of the way.

The childminder's curriculum is ambitious. She has thought about the order in which children develop their skills. For example, she has identified the skills children need to write effectively. She plans a range of opportunities for children to strengthen their shoulder and elbow movements. She provides opportunities for children to pour drinks too. The childminder manages children's behaviour well. She has clear rules and boundaries, which she shares with children. For example, children learn the rules around the use of the climbing frame. When children climb up the equipment, she reminds them that they need to put their other toys down first.

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

- The childminder supports children's independence exceptionally well. For example, when children arrive, they take off their shoes and hang up their coats. She teaches children strategies for putting on coats or waterproof suits. During the inspection, children sit on their waterproof suits to put their legs in.
- Children understand how they can keep themselves healthy. They talk about why they need to wash hands after playing outside. The childminder reminds children to wash hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise.
- The childminder supports children extremely well to take turns with their friends. For example, she talks to children about letting their friends use toys and introduces the concept of 'two minutes' to children. Children respond well to this strategy and give toys to their friends a little while later.
- Children thoroughly enjoy the range of stimulating activities that the childminder provides. For example, they enjoy painting on the plastic sheet outside. Children concentrate well on these activities as they paint lines and circles. The childminder challenges children effectively to draw longer lines or crosses. She introduces new resources, such as spray bottles, to support children's engagement even further. This helps children to become highly engaged in their learning.

- The childminder reads books with very good expression. She provides a range of opportunities to talk about the illustrations and join in with parts of the book they may know. However, the childminder does not always support children's understanding of expectations during activities. This means, at times, children do not demonstrate consistently high levels of engagement. For example, they become distracted by toys that other children have got out and begin to play with other things.
- The childminder supports children's communication exceptionally well. She uses a range of strategies to help children develop their communication. Techniques, such as labelling what children are doing, help children to express their own thoughts and ideas. She engages children in back-and-forth conversations as they talk about visits to the beach.
- The childminder attends a range of training and network meetings to ensure her knowledge and skills continue to improve. Her professional development is precisely focused on helping children to make even more progress. For instance, recent training on communication and language has helped the childminder reflect on her interactions with children. Children have made very good progress in this area.
- The childminder has a good relationship with parents. She shares detailed information about what children are doing and where they are in their learning. She talks to parents about children's next steps in learning. She gives them advice on various development stages that children go through. However, the childminder does not always give sufficiently precise information about how they can support children's care and learning at home.
- The childminder provides parents and children with clear advice regarding online safety. She talks to older children about how they can keep themselves safe and what they should do if they are concerned. She provides clear guidance on parental controls, appropriate games or applications, and setting screen time limits.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture towards 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:

- make expectations clearer to children to support their engagement, particularly when looking at books
- provide more detailed information to parents about how they can support children's care and learning at home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2726616
Local authority	Sunderland
Inspection number	10392841
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	5
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2023 and lives in Houghton-Le-Spring, Sunderland. She operates all year round, from 7.15am to 5.15pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She offers government funded places for 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 evaluated an activity with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The childminder showed the inspector a range of documents, including those relating to the suitability of all household members.
- Parents provided written feedback for the purpose of the inspection.
- The childminder explained how she keeps children safe.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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