

Childminder report

Inspection date: 9 September 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 creates a calm, supportive and welcoming setting for the children. Children enjoy attending the childminder's home and are very happy in her care. She offers a gradual introduction to the setting tailored to the individual needs of each child. She works closely with parents before children begin to gather personal information about their care routines and needs. The childminder uses this information to ensure that children have their comfort objects and favourite activities available when they arrive. This supports children to feel at home and settle in.

Children benefit from the childminder's warm and caring interactions. She knows children well and is attuned to their needs. As children show emotions due to being tired, the childminder soothes them by offering cuddles and reassurance. She then changes the environment by setting up quiet activities, such as reading, to help them take some time to rest and recharge. This enables children to remain regulated and shows them that their emotional needs will be responded to.

Children are kind and considerate to each other. They play alongside each other well and are learning to be polite and supportive. The childminder models language such as please and thank you during mealtimes. This supports children to develop relationships and a sense of responsibility.

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

- The childminder is committed to enriching children's experiences and supporting their ongoing learning and development. She carefully considers children's prior experiences and plans activities that build on them. For example, children who may not ordinarily have access to outdoor play regularly visit a variety of green spaces, enabling them to explore the world around them. Children who need support with socialising attend group activities to develop their confidence and social skills. These opportunities broaden children's experiences and help them gain the knowledge and skills they need to make progress.
- The childminder provides an environment that effectively supports children's communication and language development. Daily opportunities to enjoy familiar songs and stories help children learn new words and expand their vocabulary. She also skilfully supports children's learning by using open-ended questions and talking through their play. This ensures children make consistent progress in developing their communication skills.
- The childminder provides emotional support for children. She recognises that children who have experienced changes in their circumstances may need time to re-settle and regain confidence. By offering extended child-led play and following children's interests, she helps them feel emotionally safe, secure and confident.

This enables children to build positive relationships with the childminder and makes them feel valued. Children behave very well.

- Children learn the expectations of the setting through the childminder's clear and consistent guidance. She supports them with the daily routine and explains the importance of tidying up before meal times. Using a song, she models how to care for the environment and put toys away. As children participate, she praises their efforts and highlights their good teamwork. This helps children learn to work together, take responsibility and understand the value of contributing to the setting.
- Overall, the childminder supports children in developing independence. She arranges her environment to ensure children can self-select the resources they would like to play with and helps them to make choices. However, during food times, the childminder steps in to do things for the children instead of encouraging them to try themselves. This can mean children are not gaining as many opportunities to develop independence as they could.
- The childminder supports children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. She provides a variety of fruit at snack times and talks to children during lunch about making healthy choices. Children also benefit from regular outdoor experiences, both within the setting and at local green spaces and parks. This helps children develop an understanding of healthy living and provides regular opportunities to be physically active.
- The childminder is committed to ongoing professional development and regularly reflects on the setting to ensure continuous improvement. Most recently, she completed a course on supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This has strengthened her practice, enabling her to provide more targeted support to children and their families.

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:

- provide more opportunities for children to develop independence and practise doing things for themselves, in particular during mealtimes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2733064
Local authority	Leicestershire
Inspection number	10399949
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 3
Total number of places	4
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2023 and lives in Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. She operates from 7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, excluding for two weeks at Christmas, bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Samantha Butterwick

Inspection activities

- 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 early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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