

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 June 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 show they feel secure in the childminder's care and the bond between the childminder and children is evident. Children show interest and curiosity in visitors to the childminder's home. Children sit comfortably as they ask about the purpose of the visit and why the visitor is using a laptop. This shows how confident children feel in the childminder's environment.

The childminder works with parents to gather information about their children. She uses information about children's development and interests to get to know children before they start with her. This helps the childminder to plan for children's learning from the very beginning. The childminder knows children very well and automatically responds to their needs. For example, she recognises when younger children are tired. She uses comforting words and gently strokes their hair and faces until they fall asleep. This helps to develop children's confidence and emotional well-being.

Children behave very well. Older children willingly let younger children into their play. They happily share resources and make space for other children to join in. Children understand the childminders rules, for example, removing their shoes when they come indoors. Children are very polite and show good manners as they readily say please and thank you.

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

- Children's communication and language skills are effectively supported by the childminder. She knows to talk slowly and clearly to children, to give children time to understand what has been said and to respond. The childminder knows to link words to movements and to objects. For example, as younger children knock plastic eggs together, the childminder encourages them to listen to the 'tap, tap, tap' noises they are making.
- The childminder further extends children's vocabulary as they read stories together. She helps to develop children's independence skills as the childminder encourages children to choose their own books. The childminder engages children in stories as she uses different tones of voice. She gives children time to look at the books and talk about the pictures.
- The childminder gives children many opportunities to go outdoors and enjoy fresh air and exercise. They visit the local parks and woodland areas, where children can develop their physical skills in large, open spaces.
- The childminder works with parents to ensure all children have a healthy diet and are given appropriate food choices. She ensures all allergies and intolerances are recorded and that children do not eat food that may cause them harm. The childminder makes sure that children have regular drinks throughout

the day.

- The childminder ensures all mandatory training, such as safeguarding and first aid, is up to date. She further extends her own professional development through independently sourcing additional training. For example, following recent outdoor training, the childminder and children visited a local pond where they searched for frogs. The childminder extended this to teach children about the life-cycle of the frog.
- Parents value the childminder's role and the service she provides. Parents say the childminder's 'home-from-home' environment makes their transition back to work more comfortable. They appreciate the childminder's professional attitude and the advice she gives on supporting children's development at home.
- The childminder meets regularly with other childminders. This gives the childminder the opportunity to share ideas and develop her practice. This also enables children to build relationships with adults and children outside of their own family and friends.
- Overall, children are motivated to learn with activities that engage them. However, when children move away from their play, or rapidly move between different activities, the childminder is not consistent in encouraging them to return to the play. This does not help to enhance children's concentration skills.
- The childminder occasionally brings numbers and counting into children's play. For example, children count how many books they have chosen. However, this is not consistent practice throughout everyday routines and activities.

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:

- support children to extend their levels of concentration and maintain interest in activities
- enhance practice to ensure numbers and counting are a consistent feature of everyday routines and activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2740147
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10405826
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 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2023 and lives in Blackhill, Consett. She operates all year round from 8.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Thursday and 1pm to 6.30pm on a Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder offers government-funded places.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Denise Charge

Inspection activities

- The childminder discussed with the inspector how she delivers the educational programmes for children.
- Evidence of the childminder's public liability insurance, training certificates, the childminder's suitability and the suitability of all people living on the premises was checked by the inspector.
- Policies and documents the childminder uses when caring for children were looked at by the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children throughout the inspection.
- The written views of parents were taken into account by the inspector.

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