

Childminder report

Inspection date: 18 February 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
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 stimulating environment for children. She is very attentive to children's individual needs and provides warm and nurturing care. Children demonstrate they have formed strong attachments to the childminder. They frequently approach her for cuddles and engage her in their play. They confidently seek assistance or reassurance when needed. From a very young age, children show respect for one another and are extremely eager to share experiences and play cooperatively together. The childminder skilfully creates a harmonious atmosphere where all children are encouraged to reach their potential.

Children delight in freely exploring the wide range of engaging play resources available to them. They select books and have fun as they experiment with musical instruments. The childminder seizes opportunities to introduce songs and rhymes as children play to enhance their enjoyment and support their language development.

Children are motivated to seek out opportunities to practise and develop their physical skills. For example, they find boxes to use as a step and have immense fun climbing in and out of baskets. The childminder praises their efforts and children clap their hands in response. Children thrive in an environment where their self-esteem and sense of belonging are extremely well promoted.

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

- The childminder is an exceptionally positive role model who guides children with great sensitivity and understanding of their developmental stages. Through her positive support children learn to recognise and manage their emotions. They feel secure to express themselves and learn how to take turns when playing. Young children show high levels of confidence as they readily accept a visitor into their play. They eagerly initiate interactions and become absorbed in their play for extended periods.
- The childminder provides an inviting selection of books that draw children in and captivate their attention. Children are keen to handle books independently. The childminder supports early language skills well by saying and repeating key words and phrases. She checks children's understanding and encourages their participation. For example, she says an animal name and waits for children to point to the correct animal on the page. Regular story times help to promote children's early interest in reading.
- Children are motivated and eager to do things by themselves. For example, when the childminder tells them they are going outside, they run into the hallway and gather their belongings. Very young children develop their problem-solving skills as they attempt to put on clothes and shoes.

- The childminder establishes effective daily routines to promote children's understanding of good hygiene. For example, young children start to push up their sleeves as they know to wash their hands before and after eating. They demonstrate high levels of independence as they have a go at pushing down the top of the soap dispenser. They show excitement as they create bubbles, rub their hands together and splash in the soapy water.
- The childminder fosters strong partnerships with parents. Home visits before children start help them to settle quickly. Parents are kept well informed about the progress their children are making. The childminder swiftly shares information with parents when she identifies areas where children may benefit from additional support. However, she has not yet established procedures to communicate with other early years providers that the children attend. This means she does not gather important information about children's progress and development.
- The childminder plans activities that support children's learning well. She encourages them to use their senses and learn through first-hand experiences. For example, children use a variety of tools to make bubbles in water. They swirl the water with brushes and show fascination as they try to pop the bubbles. Children develop strength and stamina in their hands as they push brushes around in the water.
- The childminder recognises the importance of fresh air and outdoor experiences for children's physical development and well-being. She takes children on regular walks and visits to the local park. Children have fun in the garden and show determination as they attempt to turn on taps and negotiate gentle slopes as they walk up and down.
- The childminder has a secure knowledge of child development and uses this to provide a stimulating and ambitious curriculum. Careful planning enables children to develop the skills they will need to move on to the next stage in their learning, including their transition into school.
- The childminder is committed to her own professional development to enhance the service she provides. She attends training events and conferences to improve and update her knowledge and skills. Children thrive as they receive care and education that support their individual needs.

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 communication with other early years providers to support information-sharing about children's learning and progress when they attend another setting.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2740227
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	10382370
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 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2023 and lives in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education places for children aged from nine months to four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kate Scheel

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the property used for childminding.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about how she organises her time with the children and the aims of the activities that she provides.
- The inspector observed the childminder's interactions with the children and assessed the impact on children's development.
- The inspector evaluated a planned activity with the childminder.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- Parents shared their views of the childminder's service with the inspector through written and verbal feedback.

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