

Childminder report

Inspection date: 22 July 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 is committed to providing children with a range of experiences. She is passionate about children learning from the outdoor environment and children enjoy a wealth of experiences in the park, woods or beach. Children have a very good relationship with the childminder. Younger children demonstrate this as they come to the childminder for cuddles when they need reassurance. Parents say children are very enthusiastic when they know they are going to the childminder. They feel reassured when children walk into the house happily.

The childminder's curriculum is ambitious. She plans a range of activities to support children's learning. For example, she provides quieter children with opportunities to mix with other children at different groups.

Children learn how they can keep themselves safe. The childminder talks to them about how they need to stay together as they walk to school. When children play in the woods, she reminds them of hazards, such as rocks being slippery if they are wet or mossy. Children respond well to these reminders and point out the mossy rocks to their friends. Children behave well. They respond quickly when the childminder reminds them of her expectations. For example, younger children respond quickly when the childminder says, 'ah, ah, no'. Older children listen when the childminder reminds them that they need to take time to calm down.

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

- The childminder evaluates her provision effectively. She has recently reorganised her play space to ensure that older children have a space, where they can be quiet and read or play games. This helps to maintain a calm environment.
- The childminder observes what children are doing and extends their play effectively. During the inspection, older children thoroughly enjoy playing with each other in the den they have made. This supports their concentration and engagement.
- Children have a very good relationship with each other. During the inspection, children of different ages play together as they use balls and air rockets to throw to each other. They talk together to plan what they are going to do, such as going to the stream with the childminder.
- The childminder teaches children how they can keep themselves healthy. They enjoy a range of healthy meals and snacks. Children like it when they help to prepare their own meals, such as sandwiches and wraps. Strategies such as these introduce children to a range of healthy food that they try at home too. Parents comment that they are happy with the meals the childminder provides.
- The childminder has a good relationship with the local school that children attend. For example, she talks to Reception Year teachers about children's

individual needs before children start. However, the childminder has not yet established the same effective relationships with staff in the local nursery to support children's care and learning effectively.

- The childminder supports children's communication well. She gets down to children's level when she talks to them. She adapts her language effectively when talking to younger children. Good questioning encourages older children to express their thoughts and ideas. The childminder places a range of books throughout her environment. This helps children to develop a love of books and to expand their vocabulary.
- The childminder attends mandatory training. She has recently developed a plan for extending her professional development to help her meet children's needs, particularly babies and toddlers, even more effectively. However, these plans are not yet fully developed. As a result, there are a small number of occasions, particularly when children are accessing the outdoor environment, that the childminder does not plan as effectively for the very youngest children.
- The childminder has a good relationship with parents. Parents look forward to the detailed feedback at the end of the day. The childminder talks to them about what their children have been doing and how they can support them at home. She works particularly well with parents to develop consistent approaches to manage different developmental milestones, such as sleeping or behaviour. Parents say that the childminder's care and dedication support the whole family.

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:

- find ways to work with the local nursery to establish a more consistent approach to supporting children's learning and development
- implement plans for professional development to improve knowledge and skills to meet the needs of all learners.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2766483
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	10410579
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 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2023 and lives in Alnwick, Northumberland. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She provides 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 provision.
- The inspector observed children playing and learning.
- The childminder evaluated an activity with the inspector.
- The inspector talked 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 over the age of 16.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through evaluations.

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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