

Childminder report

Inspection date:

20 March 2025

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The skilled and dedicated childminder establishes excellent relationships with children and their families. Each child arrives feeling happy and eager to learn. The childminder is skilled at building children's confidence and self-esteem with a 'can-do' attitude to new learning. With plenty of praise and motivation, she helps children to believe in their ability to tackle tasks on their own. Children behave impeccably well. They have the utmost respect for the childminder, their friends and the environment. There is a culture of mutual respect, which the childminder embeds very well.

The childminder has devised a well-sequenced curriculum, which she links extremely well to children's interests and skills. In addition, the childminder has extensive knowledge and understanding of how children learn and process knowledge. She plans her curriculum to extend and build on what children already know and can do. Children show that new learning is securely embedded in their play and what they say.

The childminder provides children with plenty of opportunities to practise their new learning. For example, as children engage in discussions about the different parts of a flower such as the 'roots', the childminder encourages children to recall where else they have seen 'roots' out in the community. Children remember their past learning with enthusiasm as they confidently describe seeing the 'roots' of a tree at the riverbank while on a walk. All children make exceptional progress from their starting points in development and are well prepared for their next stage in learning.

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

- The childminder establishes excellent partnerships with parents and carers. She meticulously gathers detailed information from parents about their children to help her to make plans that meet children's unique needs from the start. The childminder consults and involves parents in all aspects of assessing their children's development. Parents comment that they are extremely happy with the progress that their children make.
- The childminder supports children's home learning extremely well. She provides all children with home learning bags that are specifically tailored to their individual learning needs. For example, as children start their transition to school, the childminder provides them with 'ready for school' learning bags to share with their parents. This includes fun activities and includes informative guidance for parents on the importance of children being independent in their self-care skills, such as toileting.
- The childminder uses every opportunity to promote children's learning. For

example, she encourages younger children to develop their counting as she encourages them to count how many times they can hop on one foot. In addition, at lunchtime, older children work out how to make their 'triangle' sandwiches into a 'square'. The childminder skilfully introduces mathematical language, such as 'half' and 'quarter', and is highly productive at encouraging children to develop their problem-solving and thinking skills. This helps children to make tremendous progress with their early mathematics skills.

- The childminder demonstrates excellent skills in supporting children's communication and language development. For instance, she helps younger children to identify animals from pictures and encourages them to make the corresponding animal sounds. In addition, the childminder extends older children's critical thinking skills as she promotes the use of precise terminology when describing differences. For example, older children confidently describe how a 'kid' is a baby goat and not a human child.
- The childminder skilfully promotes children's early reading. Children enjoy a wide range of stories and are actively encouraged to use their imaginations. For instance, older children speak about building their 'blanket house' as they create their own narrative and link it to the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. Younger children giggle as they listen to their friends. Consequently, all children develop a love of books and demonstrate excellent listening and attention skills.
- Children enjoy a range of trips and experiences in the local community. For example, the childminder plans daily trips into the community, such as visits to the farm and historical buildings. Furthermore, children attend weekly swimming lessons, where they learn about how to stay safe around water and develop their small and large muscles. These activities are skilfully planned by the childminder to support children to meet their next steps in their learning.
- Children develop a strong knowledge and awareness of the world around them. The childminder ensures that she provides a range of resources to teach children about similarities and differences that make everyday people unique. Children learn about diversity and explore cultures and beliefs.
- The childminder is dedicated to striving for continuous improvement. She has an exemplary attitude to the further professional development of herself and any assistants she works with. They complete a wide range of training to help expand their knowledge and keep their skills up to date. In addition, the childminder is extremely reflective and highly committed to continuously improving the service she provides 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.

Setting details

Unique reference number	301652
Local authority	Blackburn with Darwen
Inspection number	10376118
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	11
Date of previous inspection	17 May 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1996 and lives in Blackburn, Lancashire. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant qualification at level 3 and occasionally works with assistants. She provides government funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kelly Little

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector around the areas of her home that children access. They discussed how the childminder organises her setting and plans the curriculum and experiences for children.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she helps to keep children safe. This included evidence about first-aid training and the suitability of those living on the premises.
- The childminder and inspector reflected on an activity together. The inspector observed the quality of education during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector took the views of a number of parents into account.
- The inspector spoke with children during the inspection.

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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