

Childminder report

Inspection date:

4 November 2022

Overall effectiveness

Good

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Good

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children love coming to this childminder. They burst with excitement to tell visitors about the wonderful outdoor learning environments they enjoy playing in. Children giggle with delight as they roll newly-foraged conkers down lengths of pipe. They count with confidence as the conkers fall into the containers beneath.

Children's behaviour is very good at this setting. They are kind to one another. The well-qualified childminder is an extremely good role model and has high expectations of all children in her care. She has knowledge of how to deliver beach school sessions and forest school sessions. The childminder works tirelessly to provide engaging activities based on children's individual interests. She knows each child very well and understands what they need to learn next. As a result, all children make good progress.

Children's understanding of the world is supported by regular trips out into the community. They visit a cheese factory to learn how cheese is made. Children taste the cheese and take some away to have as part of their meal. They visit the seaside and discover creatures in rock pools and explore their habitats. Children enjoy the responsibility of caring for the childminder's pet tortoises. They talk about how tortoises should hibernate for the winter. Children here begin to understand about nature and the world around them.

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

- The childminder has a clear vision for her curriculum that focuses on developing curiosity and resilience. In particular, she teaches children about mathematics very well. Children construct towers from blocks and measure ingredients to make fresh dough. As a result, children begin to understand numbers and early mathematical concepts.
- The childminder is committed to her professional development and regularly accesses high-quality training to improve her knowledge and skills. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she undertook training to support children with mental health issues, to better support them as they returned to the setting after the lockdowns. This means that children settle quickly and are well-supported emotionally.
- Parent partnerships are strong. All parents comment that this childminder goes above and beyond to ensure that their child receives the best care and education. Parents of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities praise her commitment to her job highly. All parents say that communication between the setting and home is excellent. Parents feel included in their child's learning and development journey, which helps to provide a consistency of care.
- Children have lots of opportunity to be independent and take appropriate risks.

They serve themselves at mealtimes and select their own resources to play with. Children understand the importance of safety. They take pride in being given the responsibility of closing the gate so that the childminder's dogs are kept safely inside. As a result, children here feel that their contributions are valued. This helps to build good self-esteem.

- Children's physical development is extremely well-supported. They take part in yoga sessions. Children enjoy stretching their limbs and creating shapes with their bodies. They benefit from an extensive and well-resourced outdoor space where they can run in a private field, climb on play equipment, dig in the garden and explore woodland. Children love to play in the mud kitchen outside. They turn the tap on the water butt and pour water into the sink and onto plants. They plant cabbages to encourage caterpillars to inhabit the space. All children develop well physically.
- The childminder places high value on the teaching of literacy. She writes key words for children to look at during an activity. Children look closely at the words to follow the simple instructions of how to make dough. However, one of these key words was spelt incorrectly, which does not support children's learning to the highest level.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good knowledge of her role in keeping children safe. She is fully aware of her responsibilities to safeguard children and has completed relevant training. The childminder carries out risk assessments when required. This is to ensure that children are safe when in her care. All adults in the home undergo the necessary suitability checks. The childminder understands her responsibilities to notify Ofsted of any changes and significant events, to help ensure children's continued safety. The childminder holds a valid paediatric first-aid certificate, which enables her to treat children appropriately in the event of an accident.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- when teaching children key vocabulary make sure spelling is always accurate, to support their learning to the highest level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	308660
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10234489
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	4
Number of children on roll	15
Date of previous inspection	8 February 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1998. The setting is open from 8am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, all year round, except for family holidays. It employs three members of childcare staff. Of these, one holds early years teacher status and two are unqualified. The setting provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Caroline Morton

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- Discussions were held with the provider and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- A learning walk was completed with the provider to discuss the curriculum intent and how the provision is organised.
- The provider and inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity.
- The inspector reviewed a variety of documents, including evidence of the suitability of staff, qualifications and first-aid certificates.
- The inspector observed interactions between staff and children during activities and assessed the impact of teaching on children's learning.

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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