

Childminder report

Inspection date: 21 August 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are curious and motivated to discover the rich variety of inspiring activities provided by the childminder. The programme of play is excellent, and children have a thirst to learn. Learning outdoors is an important aspect of the childminder's curriculum, and the environment facilitates this very well. For example, there are several 'outdoor classrooms' in various areas of the garden, enabling children to enjoy learning outside in all weathers. The garden is magical and children relish the chance to play outside. They squeal with excitement as the doors open and they eagerly run outside, enjoying the freedom the garden affords them. They run, jump and climb, mastering their physical skills. They explore the 'jungle area', and intriguing den spaces ignite their curiosity. Children climb on a pirate ship, developing their coordination as they navigate a steep ladder to reach the top.

The childminder carefully plans activities specifically linked to children's changing interests. For example, children show a current interest in creatures and bugs. The childminder encourages children to look closely at spiders found in the garden. Together, they discuss what they can see, describing with impressive detail the spider's 'stripy legs' and 'fast pace'. This topical discussion, supported by the childminder's attentive teaching, extends children's vocabulary. Children forage for conkers. They buzz with excitement as they carefully open the spiky shell to discover smooth conkers inside. This requires physical dexterity and hand-eye coordination. Children enjoy their time spent outdoors, and a wealth of learning is offered through exploring nature. Children share positive relationships with the affectionate and caring childminder. They run into the childminder's open arms as she offers children warm and friendly reassurance. This is a home-from-home environment where children enjoy spending time.

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

- Children benefit from plenty of opportunities to explore the local community. For instance, children enjoy visits to local nature parks where they explore leaf rubbing and pond dipping. Toddler groups and library sessions enable children to mix with new friends, promoting their social skills. Learning beyond the home enriches and broadens children's learning experiences.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. Parents value the high-quality communication they receive. The childminder provides regular written and verbal summaries of children's achievements. She also offers practical ideas and information for home-based activities so parents know how best to support their children's learning at home. Children benefit from this collaborative approach.
- Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and nutritious snacks, contributing to their good all-round health.
- Children are eager to please and their behaviour is good. They follow

instructions and are helpful. The childminder often praises children, contributing to their secure and positive sense of self-worth. With a little encouragement, children take turns, share and play cooperatively with peers. They follow simple routines and understand the boundaries and rules in place in the childminder's home.

- The childminder gathers detailed information about children and their family lives when they first start attending the setting. This helps her to understand children's experiences and abilities. She immediately shapes her teaching around these starting points to ensure children have appropriate support from the outset.
- Continuous professional development is good. The childminder engages in lots of courses and training to develop and improve her skills. She reads articles and considers how she can improve her practice. The childminder offers a high-quality service, which is strengthened through regular training.
- The childminder personally loves books and passes this enjoyment of reading on to the children in her care. The childminder often reads to children, using the story and illustrations to capture children's imagination and develop their language skills. Children progress well in their literacy skills because of this focus on enjoyable reading activities.
- The childminder's home is enchanting, and she offers a safe and stimulating space for children to learn. However, the communal spaces in the home, such as the hallway, are cluttered and sometimes children find it difficult to make their way around the home independently and freely without encountering obstacles.
- The childminder is kind and compassionate. She often reassures children to build their confidence and self-esteem. However, the childminder does not always support children to understand the different emotions they are feeling to better support them to communicate and navigate these feelings.

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:

- enhance the organisation of communal areas in the home, such as hallways, to ensure that these are easy to navigate and fully support children's independent learning
- strengthen teaching even further to help children gain a deeper understanding of their emotions and feelings.

Setting details

Unique reference number	315556
Local authority	Bolton
Inspection number	10392486
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 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	27 August 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1995 and lives in Westhoughton. She operates all year round, Monday to Thursday, from 7.30am until 5.30pm, excluding bank holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3 and offers government funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Jacques

Inspection activities

- The childminder explained to the inspector how she designs her curriculum and organises her provision to support children's learning.
- The inspector observed activities and teaching and considered the impact these have on children's learning.
- Verbal and written comments from parents were considered by the inspector.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- Children spoke to the inspector and shared their views.

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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