

Childminder report

Inspection date: 11 January 2023

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

Children make exceptional progress in the nurturing care of this experienced childminder. She provides a warm, welcoming and exciting learning environment, where children settle quickly in their chosen play. Resources that children excitedly choose from are interesting and appropriate for their age. The childminder recognises that children have experienced fewer opportunities outside of the home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, they go on numerous exciting adventures in the community, where they learn about the natural world and how to care for living things. Children thrive in their emotional development. They play happily together and form strong relationships with each other.

Children are incredibly independent and confident for their young age. For example, they relish the opportunity to help with tasks, such as setting the table ready for snack. They show such a sense of achievement when handing a recently printed document to the childminder's husband, who thanks them for their help. Children are completely engaged and enthralled by the individualised curriculum on offer. Young children develop their fine motor skills and creative imagination while engaging in messy activities. They handle a variety of tools with precision, such as felt pens and paintbrushes. Children enjoy daily baking activities and smile with excitement, when the childminder tells them about baking banana bread. They sing spontaneously and enjoy reading favourite stories.

This passionate childminder shows genuine care and a strong commitment to every child. Children demonstrate that they are very happy and safe. They behave exceptionally well. Children understand the importance of being kind, taking turns and acknowledging feelings. They are taught from an early age to be respectful of others and their environments.

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

- The childminder is highly motivated to broaden her own skills and knowledge to continuously enhance her practice. For instance, she has attended a wide range of training courses and topical webinars to broaden her understanding in supporting children's development. The childminder shares her newly acquired knowledge with parents, such as online safety and oral hygiene.
- Children's communication and language development is a key focus of the childminder. Interactions are of an exemplary quality. The childminder consistently models correct language and pronunciation. She asks children thought-provoking questions that build on what children already know to embed their learning. When young children communicate with her, she repeats their sounds, introducing new vocabulary, which effectively supports their speech and language development. She naturally provides a narrative for what children do

and asks simple but effective questions to engage them in conversations.

- Children are exceptionally well supported to develop their physical skills. For example, they learn to walk up and down stairs safely, and confidently use a step to reach the sink in the kitchen. Children walk to school each day to take and collect older children and relish their visit to the adventure play area to access large play equipment. Children continue to develop their hand coordination as they manoeuvre jigsaw pieces in inset trays. These activities help children develop their manual dexterity in their play.
- The childminder values partnerships with parents and encourages two-way communication. She also maintains strong links with the local school and other settings children attend. This has a positive impact on children's development, as all professionals involved are able to provide a consistent approach in supporting children's next steps.
- Children learn how to keep themselves safe and maintain a healthy lifestyle. They learn the importance of good handwashing routines after nappy changing and before mealtimes. Younger children are taught to walk upstairs holding onto the banister and come down on their tummy when descending. This helps build up children's resilience while allowing them to take a controlled risk and learn how to stay safe.
- The childminder promotes equality and diversity. She teaches children about a range of cultures, religious beliefs, and celebrations. Children enjoy visits to the local church and attend local school events. These activities help to prepare children for life in modern Britain.
- Parents are extremely complimentary about the childminder. They comment on her passion and commitment to all children in her care. Parents delightfully describe the childminder as an 'extended part of the family'. They say they 'could not have asked for a better childcare setting'. Parents state that 'children play in a homely environment where they have the best fun'. In addition, they say that the childminder is a 'miracle worker and great at keeping parents organised'.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children's safety is given high priority. The childminder has an excellent awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse. In addition, she is fully aware of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about any child in her care. The childminder engages in regular training to ensure her safeguarding knowledge remains up to date. Children play in a safe environment. The childminder conducts robust risk assessments for outings and ensures that all indoor areas are regularly checked for potential hazards.

Setting details

Unique reference number	317308
Local authority	Cumbria
Inspection number	10264479
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	2 to 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	16 June 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1993 and lives in Hayton, near Carlisle, Cumbria. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Carys Millican

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.
- The inspector observed activities and assessed the impact these had on children's learning. The childminder and the inspector discussed the childminder's intentions for children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children.
- The inspectors observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with an inspector.

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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