

Childminder report

Inspection date: 25 February 2020

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 progressing well in the warm and welcoming provision. They explore the environment with enthusiasm, using the good range of resources available to support their learning and development. The childminder has a calm and nurturing approach. Children regularly check in with her for cuddles and emotional reassurance. They eagerly involve the childminder in their play. Children demonstrate a strong sense of belonging, indicating that they feel happy and secure.

Children are beginning to understand the language of feelings. They are encouraged to be kind and respectful to their friends. The childminder models positive interactions and talks to children about the impact of their behaviour. This is further supported by the clear and consistent routines and boundaries in place. Such practices help children to develop empathy for others and provide guidance on how to make good choices. The childminder is attuned to the individual needs of children. She uses careful observation alongside close relationships with parents to find out what children already know and can do. This helps the childminder to plan play experiences that are meaningful to children and that build on previous learning.

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

- The childminder provides a stimulating environment for children. Parents are highly complimentary about the level of care their children receive. The childminder uses the views of children and parents to review the quality of the provision. This helps her to assess what works well and what needs to change. For example, the outdoor area is being updated to provide more play opportunities for children who learn better outdoors.
- The childminder uses research and training to keep her knowledge updated. She also values regular contact with other childminders and relevant professionals to share good practice. However, organisational practices are not consistently applied. For example, the hours that children attend the provision are not always accurately recorded.
- Children love to share books with the childminder. They become animated and excited as they search for and match toy animals to the pictures. The childminder extends children's vocabulary by using descriptive words, such as the 'smooth and bendy snake'. The childminder's expression and tone promote children's involvement. She uses skilful questioning to help children think about what will happen next. Children are given the chance to think, respond and offer their views. Consequently, children are developing into confident communicators.
- The childminder makes good use of local amenities to help children gain an

understanding of the world beyond their own. They enjoy regular trips to nearby parks and woodlands where they use their large-muscle skills to swing, climb and run. Alongside accessing local playgroups, they go on train and bus journeys to museums, farms and neighbouring towns. These experiences allow children the opportunity to meet and socialise with others and learn more about where they live.

- The childminder applies many ways to help children develop their independence, particularly around self-care skills. For example, children are encouraged to wash hands and eat independently. When appropriate, the childminder works closely with parents to support their children with toileting skills. When out in the community, children are encouraged to observe road signs and learn how to keep themselves safe outdoors.
- The childminder provides a rich range of experiences to help children get the best possible start to their early education. She uses her good early years knowledge to adapt learning experiences to meet the different ages and abilities of the children she cares for. The childminder skilfully uses praise and encouragement to help children to persevere at tasks. This helps children to feel valued and develop a 'can-do' attitude.
- The childminder provides children with a range of fresh snacks and healthy home-cooked meals. However, the childminder does not talk to children about the benefits of healthy eating and how it supports their overall good health.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good knowledge of how to keep children safe. She discusses possible signs and symptoms that might indicate that a child is at risk from abuse or significant harm. The childminder is familiar with local safeguarding procedures and the steps she must follow if concern for a child's well-being arises. She is aware that some families might be vulnerable to extreme views or ideas. The childminder is knowledgeable about the process to follow should an allegation be made against her or if she should witness malpractice from another professional.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- make sure the daily records of children's attendance are always accurately recorded
- provide opportunities to develop children's understanding of the benefits of healthy eating and how it contributes to overall good health.

Setting details

Unique reference number	322209
Local authority	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Inspection number	10128999
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	26 February 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1991 and lives in Knowsley, Merseyside. She operates all year round from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Aisling Culshaw

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of education. She assessed the impact this has on children's learning and development.
- A joint evaluation of an activity was carried out with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation, such as training certificates.
- The inspector spoke to children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through reading the written feedback provided.
- The inspector conducted a tour of the areas of the home that are used for childminding purposes.

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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