

Childminder report

Inspection date:

19 February 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

Children are exceptionally well cared for by this highly experienced and qualified childminder. They demonstrate that they feel safe and secure as they actively seek her out for cuddles and reassurance. The childminder is attentive to children's personal needs. She recognises when children are feeling unwell and adapts the daily routines to ensure that they get the rest and attention that they require at this time.

The childminder gathers in-depth information before children start and uses this to provide each child with a bespoke curriculum that is tailored to meet their individual learning needs. She takes great pride in being an educator for children and in helping them to achieve the very best that they can. As a result, children make rapid progress from their individual starting points and are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their learning, including the move on to school.

The childminder has high expectations for behaviour. She sets clear boundaries and provides children with explanations for these. She talks to children about being kind and gives them copious amounts of praise to develop their self-esteem. Consequently, children's behaviour is exemplary. They are extremely polite and use good manners.

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

- The childminder is totally dedicated to her role in providing children with high-quality care and learning. She attends training to ensure that her knowledge is always up to date and works closely with other childminders to share information and ideas that will further enhance her already superb practice.
- The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to provide children with a curriculum that will enhance and support their learning. She continually observes and assesses children's development and uses the information she gains to provide activities that will extend children's learning based on their individual next steps.
- Children are highly motivated and eager to join in with activities. They make choices in their play and become absorbed in what they are doing. For example, older children concentrate as they hammer nails into a piece of wood. They choose which colour goggles they want and know that this is to keep their eyes safe. The childminder teaches children to hold the nail in a special clamp to prevent them from hitting their fingers. She skilfully extends the activity by introducing a screwdriver and screws for those who have already achieved the task.
- The childminder is proficient in promoting children's literacy skills. Children are able to read words from a book. They recognise the words individually from

flashcards the childminder has made and can place them in the correct order that they appear on the page. The childminder teaches children that when words are placed together they form a sentence. Children's ability in this area is exceptional.

- The childminder inspires children with a love of books and stories. Children snuggle up to the childminder as she reads to them using intonation and expression in her voice to capture their interest. The childminder uses stories to teach children about people who are less fortunate than themselves. Children learn that not everyone has a home and food to eat. The childminder talks to children about being kind and caring towards others when the boy in the story leaves his teddy bear for a homeless man so that he has a friend.
- Children's communication and language is given high priority. The childminder continually talks to children, asks questions and provides time for them to respond. The childminder introduces innovative ways for children to develop their communication skills, especially when they speak quickly and find it a little hard to be understood. The childminder records children and plays it back to them. She repeats the process after encouraging children to speak slowly so that they can compare the difference.
- The childminder teaches children about cultures and customs that are different to their own. Children learn that in some cultures people eat in different ways, such as with their hands or chopsticks. The childminder provides activities for children to experience this to enhance their learning even further.
- Children's health and physical fitness is promoted exceptionally well. They learn to move in different ways as they wave a scarf up, down and around in time to the music. They throw the scarf in the air and catch it, laughing with excitement and delight as it covers them. The childminder joins in enthusiastically as she encourages children to march when the music plays and 'freeze' when it stops. The childminder expertly extends children's imagination as she asks them to shut their eyes when they listen to the rain maker and pretend that they can hear the sea and the rain.
- The childminder goes over and above to ensure that children and their families receive an exceptional service. She provides flexible care to meet parents' individual needs. Monthly assessments and daily feedback ensure that parents always know where their children are in their learning and development. The childminder provides parents with resources and ideas of how they can continue children's learning at home.

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	405457
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10390239
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 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Date of previous inspection	20 February 2020

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1993 and lives in May Bank, near Newcastle-under-Lyme. She operates all year round from 6.45am to 7.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and personal holidays. The childminder also offers overnight care. She holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. The childminder offers funded places for all eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rebecca Johnson

Inspection activities

- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises their early years provision, including the aims and rationale for their early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The inspector spoke to children to find out about their time at the setting.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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