

Childminder report

Inspection date: 4 September 2024

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	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They benefit from the security of the strong relationships that the childminder works hard to develop and maintain. These very warm relationships help children to feel confident and secure. This helps to ensure children take part in the experiences that help them to learn and become more capable and competent. Children listen to the childminder and like to help plan their day. They offer suggestions about the activities they would like to do. The childminder has plenty of resources to help avoid squabbles over toys. She helps children to learn to take turns, talking to children about what they will do now and what they will do next.

The childminder takes children out on trips. Children talk with enthusiasm about visits to a local farm and seeing cows being milked. These interesting visits help to expand children's understanding of the world around them and provide them with lots of new vocabulary. They learn about the environment, the weather and the needs of other creatures. Children use the language they learn and what they know about animal care in their imaginative play.

The childminder helps children to follow good hygiene practices. For example, they wash their hands to make sure they are clean before they eat. The childminder provides children with healthy snacks and makes sure that they have plenty to drink. Children sit together to eat and the childminder encourages them to try different fresh fruits.

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

- The childminder knows the children well. She knows what they can do and what she is helping them to achieve next. The childminder uses her knowledge of the early years curriculum and child development to make sure each child has the opportunity to learn through play that interests and excites them. The childminder provides a good balance of play that children can engage in easily and experiences that are more challenging and require children to think and problem-solve.
- The childminder explains how she promotes children's communication and language development through conversation and questions. She provides children with lots of language so that they learn more words. The childminder encourages children to use their words as they play. She offers children lots of opportunities for being active and to learn to control their bodies. This includes using small tools to shape the dough to create interesting shapes. As they use the tools with determination children show that they are developing the strong hand muscles that they need in preparation for writing when they are in school.
- The childminder describes how she promotes children's personal, social and

emotional development by modelling polite and kind behaviour. She is clear about boundaries for behaviour, giving explanations of what is expected and accepted. This helps children to learn to behave well, to take turns and share resources. However, children sometimes have difficulty in managing their feelings and emotions, finding it difficult to control their behaviour. The childminder reminds them about how to behave but she has not yet helped them effectively to learn to be able to express some feelings and emotions in a positive manner.

- The childminder helps children to gain confidence with numbers. They delight in counting and matching games. Children are eager to have a go and show that they know the sequence of numbers from one to three and sometimes to five. The childminder is supportive and encouraging. This helps the young children to persevere.
- The childminder makes the most of her links with other local childminders, not only to extend children's chances to learn but also her own. Through the group, the childminder keeps up to date with changes in practice, legislation and ideas. The childminder reviews her policies to make sure they reflect the service she provides and help her to provide a safe service for all children.
- Parents express their confidence in the childminder. They appreciate her experience, patience and ability to make good relationships with children that help them to thrive. Parents have expressed their disappointment at the childminder's decision to retire but are understanding.

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:

- find more ways to help children identify and express their feelings and emotions in a positive way.

Setting details

Unique reference number	496880
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10351862
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 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Date of previous inspection	25 October 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2001 and lives in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3. She offers funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection activities

- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- The inspector and the childminder observed children's play during a planned activity and evaluated the quality of education.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The childminder shared parents' views with the inspector and these were taken into consideration.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of adults living in the childminder's home.

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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