

Childminder report

Inspection date:

19 November 2019

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

This experienced and well-qualified childminder places children at the heart of everything she does. She provides children with a safe, relaxed, warm and welcoming home-from-home environment. Children feel confident as they freely select their activities and resources. The childminder is highly skilled at extending spontaneous activities. For example, children freely play the piano as they investigate the differences in sounds and tones. The childminder supplements these investigation skills with additional instruments and starts to tap out rhythms.

The childminder is an excellent role model for children. She implements extremely effective behaviour strategies to help them understand boundaries and to learn to respect each other. The childminder praises children highly for their achievements and perseverance. This helps to develop their confidence. Children learn to work together. When children are ill, they show great affection and concerns for their peers as they offer cuddles.

Children independently become deeply engrossed in role play. The childminder provides props and resources to support their passion for activities, helping to spark their flourishing imagination. She asks appropriately challenging questions during activities. This helps to immerse children in a language-rich environment, further extending their already wide vocabulary and confidence to speak to others.

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

- Children are extremely well prepared for the next steps in their learning and the eventual move to school. Mathematics underpins all activities. Children spontaneously count and match pictures of 'people who help us'. They recognise and match colours as they discuss what the people wear and count the various parts.
- Partnerships with parents are first class. From the very first visit, the childminder ensures that parents' input is valued and she gathers a wealth of information to enable her to plan for the children's next stage of development. Her accurate and extensive systems enable parents to contribute to their child's progress, and the childminder supports parents to extend and consolidate learning at home. Parents comment on how children develop 'key life skills' and that the childminder 'is truly amazing'.
- The childminder recognises the importance of evaluating the quality of the care and education she provides. She regularly gathers detailed feedback from parents, to support her in evaluating the quality of her provision and help her make continual improvements. The childminder engages in a wide variety of opportunities to enhance her already excellent knowledge and understanding of how children develop and learn, including training courses, workshops and

reading professional articles and publications.

- The childminder encourages children of different ages and abilities to join in with her extremely well-planned activities. She confidently sets a variety of challenges that focus on children's individual learning needs, helping to build on what they already know and can do. Children show an exceptional interest in books. They listen attentively and respond with understanding as the childminder reads to them. For example, children read a story about pumpkins and make connections to their own pumpkins at Halloween. They are animated as they talk about what they did and how they dressed up as pumpkins.
- Through her comprehensive observations and assessments of children's progress, the childminder is able to plan and provide activities that inspire and excite children. She confidently identifies any gaps in their learning, provides activities to close those gaps and supports their rapid progress.
- The childminder is very successful in promoting the ways that children develop an understanding of the wider world. Children benefit from regular opportunities to go out within the local community. They access the local parks to use large climbing equipment and visit various groups to support their social skills. From a young age, children gain a thorough understanding of their self-care needs. They know the importance of healthy lifestyles and, for instance, the best methods for washing their hands to get rid of germs.
- This caring and nurturing childminder establishes excellent relationships with children and their families. Children settle quickly and develop a deep sense of belonging. They are extremely confident, independent and motivated learners who are eager to play and explore.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge and understanding of how to ensure that children are kept safe and protected. She has accessed training on safeguarding and other wider issues, such as the 'Prevent' duty. The childminder has developed an in-depth understanding of the signs of abuse, the procedures to follow and the records to keep should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. All risks within the home are minimised and addressed through rigorous risk assessments, and she is vigilant throughout the day. The childminder encourages children to take risks within their play and to learn about maintaining their own safety, for example understanding stranger danger and road safety.

Setting details

Unique reference number	506988
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	10117042
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 to 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	13 April 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1995 and lives in Alnwick. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Eileen Grimes

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The childminder and the inspector evaluated an activity.
- Throughout the inspection, the inspector discussed various issues with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector interacted with and spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

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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