

Childminder report

Inspection date:

26 July 2022

Overall effectiveness

Good

The quality of education

Good

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Good

Leadership and management

Good

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children develop a wonderful sense of security and trust in the care of the nurturing childminder. They welcome visitors with beaming smiles and quickly encourage them to celebrate their achievements by offering 'high-fives'. Children behave exceptionally well. They independently choose what they would like to play with from an impressive array of carefully selected resources. It is clear that the childminder places children at the heart of everything she does.

Children eagerly recall past experiences and make links in their learning. For example, they talk about holding chicks and rabbits during a farm visit, as they sort different animals into groups. The childminder joins in with their play. She understands what each child needs to learn next and uses their interests effectively in order to entice and enthuse children in their learning. For example, children learn to count and recognise when containers are full and empty as they engage in water play in their favourite area of the childminder's garden.

The childminder recognises that during the COVID-19 pandemic opportunities for children to socialise and communicate with others were more limited. She regularly takes children to interesting places in the local community, such as toddler groups and the library, where they can meet and play alongside other children. This helps children to socialise in larger groups in readiness for their eventual move to school.

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

- The childminder carefully monitors each child's progress. She plans opportunities that help children to make good progress. High priority is given to developing children's social and communication and language skills. The childminder talks to children as they play, teaching them how to pronounce words correctly and introducing new and interesting vocabulary. For example, as children pretend to be firefighters the childminder introduces the word 'extinguish' and explains what it means.
- Children demonstrate a very good understanding of language. They enjoy singing familiar songs and select favourite books to share with the childminder. The childminder listens to what children have to say and makes suggestions to enhance their play. Occasionally, however, opportunities to ask thought-provoking questions to check children's understanding are not fully embraced. This means that children are sometimes not challenged to the highest level.
- Children as young as two years of age show genuine kindness and empathy for their friends. They are mindful of each other's feelings and support each other as they play. Children understand the childminder's high expectations and respond immediately to her gentle reminders about behaviour. Children manage their emotions very well and develop a clear understanding of appropriate

behaviour.

- The childminder implements rigorous hygiene procedures. Children wipe their own noses and place tissues carefully in the bin. They understand why it is important to wash their hands before returning to play. Furthermore, the childminder encourages children to be incredibly independent. For example, young children use cutlery and have great fun adding their own filling to sandwiches at lunchtime.
- Children benefit from daily outside play and fresh air. They increase their physical skills as they climb the steps, work out how to operate spray bottles, and skilfully select resources from around the garden. The childminder provides nutritious meals and snacks and talks to children about food that is healthy. Children understand the importance of drinking water to stay hydrated, regular exercise and rest.
- The childminder's relationships with parents are strong and supportive. Parents feel that the childminder has taken the time to understand their children. They speak highly of the education and care that their children receive. They value the advice and support she gives them. Parents comment that the childminder is 'kind, considerate and wonderful'.
- The childminder regularly evaluates the service she provides. She constantly reviews activities and resources to ensure that children stay motivated and continue to learn. The childminder seeks feedback from the parents and asks children for their ideas for meals and new toys. The childminder undertakes regular training to ensure her professional skills remain up to date.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder keeps her knowledge up to date by accessing safeguarding training. She has the confidence to act quickly in the event of a child protection issue. The childminder is fully aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what to do should she be concerned about a child's welfare. She undertakes regular risk assessment checks of the environment to ensure that the environment remains a safe space in which children can play. The childminder holds an appropriate first-aid qualification and understands how to respond in the event of an accident.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- consistently check children's understanding of ideas and concepts in order to precisely challenge them further so that they make the best possible progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY235122
Local authority	Blackburn with Darwen
Inspection number	10129022
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	0 to 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	26 August 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2003 and lives in Blackburn, Lancashire. She operates all year round from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Denise Farrington

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider 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 childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed her curriculum.
- The childminder and the inspector jointly evaluated an activity together.
- The inspector observed teaching practice, care practices and routines of the day.
- The inspector spoke to children and the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Parents provided written feedback and their views were taken into consideration.
- A sample of documentation was viewed by the inspector, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

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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