

Childminder report

Inspection date: 28 August 2025

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 are very happy in the childminder's care. This is a view supported by parents. The childminder helps children to feel at home in her setting. She uses photos as a way to help children develop a sense of belonging. She encourages children to contribute to the planning for the next week. This helps children to feel a valued part of the childminding family. Throughout the inspection, children talk about their friends and look forward to seeing them again. The childminder teaches children how to keep themselves safe. For example, younger children know that they must hold the childminder's hand or the pushchair when they go out.

The childminder's curriculum is ambitious and well sequenced, and this helps children make good progress across all areas of learning. For example, she understands the stages that children go through as they develop their social skills and learn to share toys with their friends. The childminder manages children's behaviour effectively. Children have clear boundaries, and the childminder reminds children of her expectations. She uses a range of techniques to help children to manage their behaviour. For example, she uses distraction effectively when children become excited. This helps to maintain a calm and focused environment.

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

- The childminder plans her environment to support children's interests. She talks to older children about what they would like to do. She observes what younger children enjoy in order to plan for their interests too. This helps children to maintain engagement in activities. During the inspection, younger children thoroughly enjoyed listening to their favourite books.
- Children thoroughly enjoy drawing. The childminder understands the importance of younger children having the space to draw and colour on a larger scale. She covers the table with paper, and younger children relish experimenting with the different marks they can make on the paper. They demonstrate high levels of engagement as they sit with the childminder and draw lines and explore different colours.
- The childminder evaluates her provision effectively. She knows what she does well and where she can improve further. She evaluates and adapts activities throughout the day to ensure activities support children's stage of development. For example, when children struggle to engage in a matching activity, she adapts it to follow children's interests in animals.
- Children thoroughly enjoy listening to stories. The childminder reads books with very good expression and gives children time to talk about the illustrations. Children listen intently and comment on what they can see. They are engaged as they anticipate the illustrations on the next page and turn the page with excitement.

- The childminder attends all mandatory training to keep her knowledge and skills up to date. She recognises that she now needs to consider further professional development opportunities to strengthen her teaching even further. For example, she is aware that she needs to refresh her knowledge of supporting younger children's speech and language development.
- The childminder teaches children how they can keep themselves healthy. For example, children know that they need to wash their hands before eating or after using the toilet. They enjoy plenty of fresh air as they play in the childminder's garden.
- The childminder helps children to develop their independence overall. For example, she teaches younger children how to put on their own coat. However, this is not yet sufficiently embedded throughout the whole routine. There are a small number of occasions when the childminder does not make the best use of all opportunities to help children to do things for themselves.
- The childminder has very good relationships with parents. From the moment children start, she develops an open dialogue with parents to help her meet children's needs effectively. She shares a range of information about the children's day and what they have been learning. She talks to parents about how they can support children's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture towards 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:

- focus professional development more effectively on ways to improve the quality of teaching to an even higher level
- provide further opportunities for children to develop their independence.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY260990
Local authority	Sunderland
Inspection number	10414388
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 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	25 October 2023

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2003 and lives in Monkwearmouth, Sunderland. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides government-funded childcare.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Elizabeth Fish

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector around her home and explained how she organises her provision.
- The inspector observed children playing and learning.
- The childminder evaluated an activity with the inspector.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Parents provided written feedback for the purpose of the inspection.
- The childminder showed the inspector a range of documents, including those relating to the suitability of all household members.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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