

Childminder report

Inspection date: 31 January 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

The childminder knows children and their families well. The procedures for settling in are personalised according to the needs of individual children and their families. For example, the childminder uses systems, including 'All about me' to establish children's starting points and to learn about their backgrounds and extended family.

The childminder uses her assessments alongside children's interests to plan for their next steps. She creates a fun and play-based learning environment. She takes pride in ensuring children are meeting their age-related milestones and are ready for their next stages in learning, including starting school.

Children behave well and maintain concentration on activities because they are challenging and fun. The childminder's calm, supportive nature allows children to feel safe and secure in her care. She ensures that they understand the importance of learning from mistakes, giving things a go, and to keep on trying. Children respond well to the childminder's instructions; they make requests politely and wait patiently for their turn.

The childminder supports children's communication and language development effectively. For example, she repeats and models the language children are using and extends their sentences by adding new vocabulary. She further supports them through her questioning skills. Children respond effectively to her questions and enjoy recalling a day at the park when they made their own 'bug hotel.'

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

- The childminder understands the importance of continuous professional development to further support her practice. She attends virtual and local authority training to ensure her knowledge is up to date. She is confident in explaining how she would seek advice from external agencies should she have concerns about a child's development.
- The childminder teaches children about how to stay healthy. During snack times, she talks about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables to help our bodies to grow and develop. She reminds children about how they can care for their teeth. She uses her large garden and local parks to ensure children have opportunities for fresh air. They exercise through running, climbing, sliding and balancing and engaging in nature walks.
- The childminder encourages children to be independent by washing their own hands and selecting their own tissues. She teaches them the importance of 'catch it and bin it' to prevent germs spreading. However, the childminder has not fully explored how she can provide further opportunities, particularly for older children, to further support their independence skills. For example, to

practise organising their own belongings, drinking from an open cup and tidying away their toys.

- The childminder shows passion for developing children's understanding of number. For instance, during a play dough activity, she encourages children to organise the dough into coloured sets, count each set, and then find the corresponding number on the number line. She further supports their number recognition in describing the shapes of the different numbers. She supports this visual recognition with fun phrases. For example, 'twisty, twirly, curly wurly' for the number eight.
- The childminder clearly sets out her expectations for children's behaviour. She reminds children of the importance of using scissors safely, and not putting objects in their mouths. She reminds them of the importance of caring for one another and sharing. Children respond to her instructions, as they take turns in posting shapes into a shape sorter. The childminder offers children high praise for their achievements and celebrates their artwork through display.
- Parents are extremely happy with the childminder. They receive daily reports and progress summaries. They say their children enjoy coming because of the activities and experiences on offer. They feel supported by the childminder with ideas of how to help at home. For example, with potty training.
- The childminder teaches children about diversity. She uses books and small world figures to celebrate differences and uniqueness. She celebrates a range of religious festivals through visits out and craft activities. Some of which include making candles for Diwali, and dragons and lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year.

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:

- provide further opportunities to support children's independence skills, particularly for older children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY265309
Local authority	Merton
Inspection number	10311652
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 3
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	4 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2003. She lives in the London Borough of Merton. She operates on Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm, for most of the year. The childminder receives funding for the provision of free early education for children aged three years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Penny Harman

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the childminder.
- The inspector conducted a learning walk of the premises, to ensure it was safe and suitable for childminding.
- The inspector observed, the activities and the interactions between children and the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder about safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Discussions were held between the inspector and parents.
- The inspector held a management meeting with the childminder. The inspector looked at relevant documentation.

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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