

Childminder report

Inspection date: 9 January 2020

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

The provision is good

The childminder is keen to ensure children develop the essential skills needed for their start at school. She encourages them to be independent, for instance providing them with the equipment they need to make a picture. Younger children use good hand-to-eye coordination as they place stickers onto their piece of card. Older children learn how to squeeze tubes of glitter glue. This helps to strengthen their finger muscles in preparation for early writing. Children sustain good concentration levels, particularly during creative activities. They enjoy painting and making cards for people in their family. The childminder believes in children's ability to succeed. She uses consistent praise to build their confidence and self-esteem. Children are happy and safe. The childminder provides them with affection and knows when they are hungry, tired or need changing. She attends to them quickly, enabling children to feel comfortable. Children behave well and have a positive attitude to learning. They enjoy engaging in activities with the childminder. For example, they make pizza and bake. Children enjoy using their imagination. They build dens using fabric draped over the table and use it as a cosy space to play.

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

- Children enjoy learning how to operate technological toys. They quickly learn that when they press a button on the 'pirate ship' it will create a sound. They persevere and anticipate repeated actions. This helps them to understand how electronic toys work.
- The childminder has formed effective partnerships with parents. In written letters, parents state that the childminder is 'trustworthy, caring and professional'. They comment how the childminder maintains children's routines effectively. Parents state how she provides 'invaluable support' within a family atmosphere. The childminder ensures parents receive daily feedback on their children's day. This includes activities they have engaged in and their general well-being. She also provides a 'communication book' to record care needs, including meals, rest times and nappy changes. The childminder keeps parents informed of their children's development. She discusses how to support their learning at home to ensure children make good progress.
- Generally, children respond well to the childminder and follow her instructions. Yet, at times, older children do not always pick up the toys when asked and show a lack of respect of equipment by walking over it. Children do not effectively learn how to look after resources well enough to ensure they do not get broken or damaged.
- The childminder ensures children are physically active. She often takes them on walks within the community and to the nearby park, where they practise their climbing skills. The childminder provides children with healthy snacks. She ensures they receive regular drinks and meals to maintain their energy.

- Children are confident and able to express their needs and wishes. Younger children make sounds to make their meaning clear to others. Older children use words to communicate.
- The childminder has liaised with other childminders to help improve her policies and procedures. This helps to create good standards of quality care and education. The childminder is aware of other childcare professionals within the area. However, she is yet to establish contact with the providers attended by some of the children in her care. A consistent approach to share information on children's progress is not in place.
- Children benefit from new activities and resources that the childminder researches. For instance, they enjoy creatively decorating pots and planting bulbs. They show interest as the bulb grows into delightfully coloured flowers.
- The childminder plans to undertake more training. She has an interest in supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. She is keen to extend her knowledge in this area.
- Children enjoy exploring and investigating different textures. Younger children find pipe cleaners fascinating, watching them spring about when pulled. Older children feel pom-poms and talk about their different colours.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder is vigilant in keeping children safe. She is alert to the risks of cyber bullying and ensures children do not have access to the internet, social media, mobile phones or other such devices. She obtains parental permission to carry out emergency first aid on children if necessary and carries out regular fire drills. This helps children to learn how to evacuate the premises safely and to protect their welfare. The childminder understands relevant safeguarding procedures. She has attended child protection training, and she is alert to possible signs of when a child might be at risk of harm, including child exploitation.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- devise strategies to help older children learn and understand how to respect and look after resources and equipment more effectively
- develop systems for working and sharing information with other early years professionals to benefit children's overall development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY265598
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	10125533
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	6 May 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2004 and lives in Plymouth, Devon. She offers care on Monday from 1.45pm to 5.15pm and on Thursday from 8.45am to 1.45pm, all year round.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Joanne Steward

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a joint observation with the childminder.
- The childminder gave the inspector a learning walk and discussed how she organises the provision.
- Various documentation was looked at by the inspector, such as safeguarding policies and training certificates.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- Written letters from parents were read to gain their views of the care and education the childminder provides.

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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