

Childminder report

Inspection date: 10 March 2022

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

The provision is good

Children demonstrate that they feel happy in the care of the childminder. They are very active in their play and thoroughly enjoy being outside. Older children use their large muscles to pedal bicycles. Younger children push themselves around in cars using their feet. At other times, children and the childminder sit together and blow bubbles. They are relaxed in each other's company and enjoy watching and talking about the bubbles blowing in the wind. Older children's vocabulary is good. Younger children are beginning to use clear words in response to the childminder's questions.

Children are learning how to use technology. The childminder shows them how to scan electronic codes on books. These link to songs, and children know how to choose their favourites. They press buttons and join in with singing and actions with enthusiasm. Children know how to take turns and share resources, and their behaviour is good. The childminder provides children with a balanced, healthy diet. After a busy morning being outside, they eat with relish and are ready for a rest. Young children enjoy having their comforters from home. They very quickly settle themselves to sleep, showing that they feel safe and secure.

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

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the childminder cared for children of key workers and supported families with schooling. She was proactive in staying in touch with other children and parents through video calls. When children returned, the childminder noticed some gaps in their social development and has worked hard to close these. She helps to run a community toddler group and regularly takes the children she cares for. This has had a positive impact on children's confidence and social development.
- The childminder gains useful information from parents about what children know and can do when they start to attend. This enables her to identify children's starting points in learning from the outset. The childminder is aware of where children are in their development. She observes them closely and uses her observations and assessments to identify what they need to learn next. Children are making good progress.
- Parents' comments about the childminder are very positive. They say their children are happy in her care and that they are learning well. Parents say the childminder helps their children learn how to be kind and respectful to others. They receive good information about how their children are developing and know how to support their progress at home.
- Children learn how to be independent. The childminder encourages them to do things for themselves from an early age. Children make a good attempt to put on their shoes and boots before they go into the garden. This helps to give them

confidence in their own abilities.

- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to her work. She regularly reviews her practice to identify areas she wants to strengthen even more. The childminder undertakes extensive professional development. This helps to further her knowledge, for example on patterns of children's play. The childminder actively seeks the views of parents and looks for ways to implement their ideas into her practice.
- Children enjoy exploring the outdoors. They look carefully at flowers that are starting to bloom. Children recognise sounds, such as a passing emergency vehicle. Young children show an interest in mud and leaves, and pick these up as they explore. At times, they are tempted to put these in their mouth. When they do this, the childminder keeps them safe by telling them not to. However, she does not always support young children to find alternative ways to use their interests, to further extend their learning.
- The childminder provides some opportunities for children to learn about different people and communities, for example by using books. However, she has not fully considered how to use children's own experiences and backgrounds to help them to develop a rich and meaningful understanding of families and communities beyond their own.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a secure understanding of local safeguarding partnership procedures. She has good knowledge about how to recognise signs that children may be at risk of harm or extremist behaviour. The childminder undertakes regular safeguarding training to keep her knowledge relevant and up to date. She regularly risk assesses her home and carries out emergency evacuation drills. This helps children know what to do in the event of a fire. The childminder has a clear safeguarding policy, which she uses to underpin her good practice.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- make more positive use of young children's exploration and emerging interests to further extend their learning
- strengthen opportunities for children to have rich experiences to learn about families and communities beyond their own.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY292255
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10127124
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	6
Date of previous inspection	22 December 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2004 and lives in Bishops Stortford. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Tuesday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jill Hardaker

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 her and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the childminder.
- The inspector and the childminder looked at the areas of her home that she uses with children and discussed how she operates her practice.
- The inspector observed the childminder joining in activities with children and discussed the learning that was taking place with her.
- A sample of policies and procedures was looked at by the inspector. These included documents relating to the suitability of household members, safeguarding and complaints.
- The inspector discussed the needs of individual children with the childminder and talked with her about the progress they are making.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and discussed the childminder's reflections of her practice with her.

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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