

Childminder report

Inspection date: 7 March 2024

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children flourish in the care of this experienced and exceptional childminder, who values the uniqueness of every child. The childminder is passionate about her role. She is warm and nurturing and children demonstrate they are happy, content and feel safe in her company. Children demonstrate an exceptional sense of belonging and high levels of self-esteem. They are confident to choose their own play, ask questions and do things for themselves.

The childminder provides extensive and innovative ways for children to develop their physical skills. Children become excited and gather quickly when it is time for the morning exercise session. Children roll, press and squeeze play dough as they make caterpillars and butterflies. Outdoors, children have great fun as they whizz around on wheeled toys. Children thoroughly enjoy planting and nurturing flowers and vegetables from tiny seeds. They learn to handle small tools and develop an interest in healthy foods. Children learn the importance of good oral hygiene as they listen to and talk about stories linked to caring for their teeth. Children relish in achieving tasks for themselves. They develop their dexterity and coordination skills as they use tools to cut their own fruit at snack time. All children, including those children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) make rapid progress from their starting points.

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

- The childminder is totally committed to providing children with the very best start in life. She works tirelessly to identify and prioritise each child's learning and development needs. She diligently undertakes a variety of training courses to extend and further develop her knowledge and skills. Consequently, children, including those who receive government funding, make rapid progress and develop an exceptionally positive attitude towards their learning.
- The childminder organises flexible settling-in sessions for children prior to them attending. She gets to know the children exceptionally well during this time and builds close relationships with their parents.
- The childminder is an excellent role model. She demonstrates sharing and being kind and polite. Consequently, children's behaviour is exemplary. Children use good manners, play exceedingly cooperatively and look out for each other. For example, children are overheard saying 'have you had your drink yet?'
- The childminder meticulously plans activities and experiences that match precisely to children's learning needs. She takes account of children's learning styles and preferences. For example, some children prefer to learn outdoors. They enjoy trips in the community and woodland walks. Children develop their problem-solving skills as they help to design and build dens from natural resources. The childminder promotes children's confidence and language skills as

she encourages children to re-enact favourite stories linked to the woodland theme.

- The childminder expertly adapts activities to meet the learning needs of the children taking part. During a singing session she uses props to further enhance children's enjoyment. She encourages babies to explore toy ducks and learn to name them. She introduces mathematics as she encourages toddlers to choose between 'big' and 'little' ducks. Older children learn to recognise a group without counting and they start to solve simple addition and subtraction problems.
- The childminder inspires children to develop a love of books. She provides a vast range of literature based on children's interests. Children respond positively and constantly select books that link to their play. Children's language skills are extended as they gain the vocabulary to name several of their favourite dinosaurs. The childminder engages children in conversation, introducing new words as they play. She acknowledges babies' babbles and gestures, so that they know their communication is important to others.
- The childminder manages children's behaviour superbly. Older children are careful of babies around them. They include babies in their play, chatting to them as they show them their favourite books. Children demonstrate high levels of confidence and maturity appropriately. For example, they say 'I am ready for my turn now' when they want to use a shared toy.
- The childminder places a high priority on children's safety. First example, she ensures children learn about road safety and other hazards around them from an early age.
- Parents highly praise the childminder and the service she provides. The childminder continuously shares information about children's learning and development with their parents from the outset. She gives a wealth of ideas that parents can use to further support their children's rapid progress at home.
- The childminder and her co-childminder undertake extensive peer reviews of each other's teaching practice. They constantly reflect on their performance to identify where improvements can be made and to adapt their practice.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interest first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY293371
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10317475
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 3
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	30 May 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives in Lichfield, Staffordshire and works with another childminder. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except bank holidays and family holidays. She has a relevant qualification at level 3. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Karen Laycock

Inspection activities

- This is 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 and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises their early years provision, including the aims and rationale for their early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key 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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