

Childminder report

Inspection date: 13 September 2023

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 happy, and they show they feel safe in the childminder's care. They have clearly formed positive relationships with the childminder, and they behave well. Children make independent choices about what they want to do, and the childminder supports their self-help skills well. For instance, children decide about what they want to play with, and they can access their drinks throughout the day as needed. Children understand the routine well and show kindness as they help the childminder to tidy up.

The childminder knows how the children are developing in her care and has high expectations for them. She provides activities that support children's interest and development. For example, the childminder ensures that storytelling is routinely part of the children's day, to support their next steps in speaking and listening skills. Children benefit from a curriculum that is tailored to their individual needs. For instance, as children explore with wooden blocks, the childminder incorporates the children's interest in mathematical learning. She talks to the children about numbers, shapes and dimensions. This makes learning enjoyable for them and supports the next stages in their learning.

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

- The childminder provides a varied curriculum for the children. She ensures that children have a wealth of experiences available to them inside and outside of her home. Children have many opportunities to build on their moving and handling skills. For instance, they go out daily to explore at local parks and nature areas that allows them to develop their climbing and balancing skills. Children's small-muscle skills are supported through art and craft activities, such as drawing, painting and cooking.
- Overall, children are taught how to take care of their own health and well-being. The childminder talks about the children catching a cough and the importance of washing their hands before they eat and supports them to do this. However, occasionally not all hygiene routines are maintained, especially at lunchtimes.
- The childminder provides a welcoming environment for the children. They have fun playing together with the toys and resources on offer. For example, children squeal with excitement and giggle as they chase and experiment with the paper aeroplanes they have made. Children demonstrate that they are confident in the care of the childminder. For instance, they readily approach the inspector and interact with her in a friendly way. This shows children are self-assured.
- The childminder provides a consistent dialog with the children, which in turn, supports their communication and language skills. The childminder reads books to the children and asks them a good range of questions. However, too often she does not give children sufficient time to think and respond to questions.

Despite this, children show that they are making suitable progress in their speaking skills. Children behave well and take turns. They have good relationships with each other and enjoy each other's company.

- The childminder is effective at supporting the children's self-confidence and self-esteem. For example, she regularly gives them praise and teaches them about being kind to each other. The childminder supports children's social development well. For instance, she takes children out to socialise with others in the community.
- Parental feedback is positive and shows that partnerships with parents is good. The childminder understands the importance of keeping parents up to date on how their children have been and how they are developing. She relays information daily to them verbally and through written communication.
- The childminder is committed to updating her knowledge and skills and is committed to advancing her training. The childminder employs a part-time assistant to work with her and the children. Suitable recruitment processes and supervisions are in place to ensure that the assistant is appropriate for her role.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good understanding of her roles and responsibilities to safeguard the children. She ensures that her home is safe and secure and that pets are given their designated space. The family dog is calm and friendly as seen when visitors and children pass the gated area where he sleeps during childminding hours. Children are taught to respect and leave the dog in his own space. The childminder and her assistant complete regular safeguarding training. The childminder knows the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. Furthermore, she is confident in the signs and indicators that may mean a child is at risk.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve the opportunities for children to think and respond to questions
- take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and ensure that children's health is not compromised.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY298772
Local authority	Wokingham
Inspection number	10310019
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	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	27 February 2020

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2005 and lives in Arborfield, Berkshire. She operates for most weeks of the year, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The childminder works with an assistant, who is her daughter. Both the childminder and her assistant hold a recognised qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The childminder explained her curriculum during a learning walk with the inspector.
- The childminder and the inspector completed a joint observation of an activity together and discussed the quality of teaching and learning afterwards.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at appropriate times during the inspection.

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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