

Childminder report

Inspection date: 15 October 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	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children thrive in the childminder's care. Her exceptional knowledge of childcare and early education helps her to meet the needs of each child. The childminder puts children's comfort and well-being at the heart of her practice. She helps children to feel confident and secure so that they are ready to participate with enthusiasm in the very purposeful and interesting play on offer.

Children are thoroughly delighted as they pretend to clean the teeth of dolls. They mime putting toothpaste on the brush before gently and carefully cleaning the dolls' teeth. Children talk about their own experience of going to the dentist and listen attentively to a story about teeth cleaning. The childminder provides lots of opportunities for children to share their thoughts and ideas. This often takes children into new and exciting play with even more extended learning. For example, when exploring the natural autumn resources, children decide that the wooden discs resemble coins, and this takes them into some imaginative shop play. The childminder's exceptional skill enables her to make the most of this new opportunity for learning.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. The childminder supports children with this extremely well. She gives clear guidance about how to behave safely, sensibly and kindly. She supports children to learn how to understand and manage their own feelings. This helps children to cope when they face challenges.

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

- The childminder provides children with an interesting variety of opportunities to learn through their play. The curriculum is designed with each child's individual learning needs in mind. The childminder combines her knowledge of the children, their personalities, interests, learning styles and stages of development with what they need to know and do. From this, she tailors her teaching to match it precisely to children's individual needs. Children make excellent progress across the areas of learning.
- The childminder makes sure that each child has the very best chance of success. She structures the day according to children's needs. The childminder's highly successful strategies ensure that children build on what they know and can do. She works extremely hard to ensure that children have the knowledge and skills they need for school. She ensures that children have the time to process information and solve problems for themselves, but that they also always have the right help when they need it.
- The childminder makes the most of the opportunities for children to learn outside and in the local community. She introduces children to new vocabulary and encourages them to use the words they learn in their play. The strong focus

on communication and listening helps children to express themselves and to ask questions to seek information. As children play and explore the environment, they keep their bodies and minds active. They move carefully, avoiding and removing obstacles, demonstrating that they learn how to keep themselves safe.

- Children's sense of security and well-being is evident. They are confident and highly able. The strong bonds with the childminder help them to take risks, have a go and persevere. Children's determination and belief in themselves is expertly promoted by the childminder, with her encouragement and enthusiastic but calm manner.
- The childminder establishes highly successful relationships with children's immediate and extended family. She uses the information that parents share about their children to assess children's starting points and their ongoing progress. The partnership working contributes significantly to children's well-being and success. Parents describe the childminder as exceptional, saying that their children flourish and that nothing is too much trouble for her.
- The childminder maintains her interest in developing and improving her own knowledge for the benefit of all of the children. She undertakes in-depth training that helps to build on her expertise. The childminder uses what she learns, putting into practice ideas and resources to increase children's enjoyment and opportunities for learning. She evaluates her practice to identify what she can improve and makes the changes to ensure ongoing progression. This has an extremely positive impact on children's experience while they are in her care.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY305102
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10359862
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 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	3 December 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2005 and lives in London Colney. She operates all year round, from 9am to 2.30pm on Monday and Friday, and from 9am to 5pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alison Reeves

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the childminder's home that are used by the children, both indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector observed the childminder interacting with children during the visit and spoke with the children.
- The inspector reviewed relevant records, including suitability checks for all persons living in the childminder's home.
- The inspector took account of parents' views through written references.
- The inspector and the childminder discussed children's learning and progress, and evaluated learning experiences together.

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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