

Childminder report

Inspection date: 16 September 2024

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 visibly happy and incredibly settled at this home-from-home setting. Children have formed very close attachments with the childminder, and they are quick to greet visitors with a smile, showing confidence in their surroundings. The childminder is very affectionate towards the children, which helps them to feel secure and supports their emotional development. Children's needs are catered for as the childminder works alongside parents to tailor her approach and support their individual daily routines.

Children are independent. The environment has been thoughtfully set up so that children can make choices about the resources they want to play with. As a result, they engage very well and are eager to investigate and explore the resources on offer. Children watch carefully to try and understand how things work. For example, they observe as a ball spins around a spiral before coming out the other end. The childminder actively encourages children to persevere. When babies reach for a toy just out of reach, rather than passing it to them, she supports them to keep trying. The childminder shows genuine happiness when they succeed, celebrating their accomplishment. Children behave well. The childminder talks to the children about her expectations. She supports them to use good manners by modelling 'please' and 'thank you'.

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

- The childminder's knowledge of child development is good. She takes the time to plan activities and resources that will actively support the children's ongoing development. Parents are asked to complete an 'all about me' form, which tells the childminder what their children do at home and their likes and dislikes. This insight enables the childminder to build on what children already know and can do, and it provides resources of interest to them.
- Relationships with the children's parents and grandparents are very good. The childminder ensures that there is a daily exchange of information, both verbally and written, and she shares photos throughout the day so that parents feel well informed.
- The childminder plans for all areas of learning and has a strong focus on independence and developing the child's voice. Her curriculum for the youngest children focuses on the prime areas of learning. The childminder understands the importance of building a strong base for which children learn and develop.
- The childminder feels well supported through her local authority. She meets regularly with other childminders to share good practice. The childminder evaluates and reflects on her practice. However, she does not seek regular opportunities to widen her knowledge further to support her continued professional development and help children make the best possible progress.

- Children's physical development is well planned for. The childminder understands the need to help babies strengthen their muscles, and they enjoy 'tummy time' to build on their growing skills. When they are ready, she supports babies to sit. The childminder takes children to the local park, and they enjoy playing in the garden so they can be physically active.
- The childminder places a lot of emphasis on supporting children's language and communication development. She constantly narrates their play, which ensures children hear spoken language that builds on their vocabulary. The childminder is animated when using her voice, which babies respond well to. Children enjoy songs and rhymes as they mimic the sounds and the childminder's facial expressions, showing their willingness to communicate. She responds quickly, acknowledging their voice.
- Safety is important, and the childminder is very vigilant. She routinely checks toys to ensure they are fit for purpose. The doors are locked and the garden secure. The youngest children are always supervised to ensure that they are safe. The childminder has an effective password system in place if an unknown person collects a child. This enables her to ensure that children are only released to known adults.
- Children's health is well considered. The childminder helps children to learn about healthy eating and ensures they eat nutritious packed lunches. She provides water or milk throughout the day. The childminder enjoys taking children out to experience their local community. The children enjoy going for walks and visits to the local library and museums, all of which help to extend their experiences further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- explore training opportunities further to extend knowledge and teaching skills to an even higher level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY309458
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10351874
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	2 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Date of previous inspection	29 October 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2005 and lives in Colchester, Essex. She operates all year round on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8am to 5pm, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emily Holt

Inspection activities

- The childminder spoke to the inspector about her curriculum and what she wants children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The childminder and the inspector carried out a joint observation together.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the childminder's first-aid and public liability certificates.

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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