

Childminder report

Inspection date: 21 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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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 show genuine care and consideration as they follow the childminder's and her assistant's lead. For example, when older children see others in distress, they give them a comforter to help to calm them. Children interact positively with everyone. They show that they feel very safe and exceptionally happy in this setting. Behaviour is extremely good. Children enjoy making independent choices about their play and learning indoors and outside. Children develop their curiosity as they explore the excellent toys and resources.

Children quickly flourish in this warm, caring and safe environment. They make rapid progress in their learning and development. Children's communication and language skills are excellent. They are encouraged to describe what they are doing and learn new words that help to increase their vocabulary. All children embed the skills and key knowledge they need to support their next steps for learning. Older children repeat phrases and demonstrate their ever-increasing ability to link words and speak in more complicated sentences during conversations. Younger children display rapid progress as they follow simple and more complicated instructions, which demonstrates their growing understanding of language.

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

- The childminder diligently learns about children's routines, interests and abilities before they start. She uses this information very effectively to plan children's individual learning. Excellent teaching skills are implemented. Children have great fun during activities and learn to watch, listen and respond very competently.
- The childminder provides children with regular opportunities to learn about numbers and shapes through play. Older children enjoy sorting and comparing objects by size, shape, colour and type. Younger children join in squeezing brightly coloured pom-poms and copy older children, who match these coloured objects and place them into the corresponding coloured bowls.
- Children enjoy cuddling up, to listen to a favourite story. The assistant talks about the characters and asks children to predict what might happen next. Older children enjoy helping to tell the story by using picture clues, while younger children are quick to point out their favourite characters. All children enjoy sharing books, learning how to handle and respect these.
- The childminder supports children's understanding of healthy lifestyles. They thoroughly enjoy exploring different types of food that people eat in other countries. For instance, children notice the flavour and 'crunchiness' of prawn crackers. They learn about foods that are good for them, and those that support strong bones and growth. Children also learn about the importance of cleaning their teeth at different times of the day, including after meals.

- Regular, well-planned outdoor play opportunities provide children with plenty of fresh air and exercise. They visit local parks and use challenging larger play equipment to develop their balance and coordination skills. Children learn about their local community and people who help us. This helps to develop their understanding of the wider world.
- The childminder is very sensitive to children's needs, which helps to foster their security and emotional well-being. Younger children happily explore their environment and are very reassured that the childminder is nearby. The childminder helps children to learn about how to keep themselves and others safe. They learn how to manage scissors and cutlery safely.
- The childminder has established exceptionally strong partnerships with parents, which directly contributes towards a very consistent approach to meeting children's learning and development needs. Older children share reading books with their parents. A reading diary enables the childminder to remain updated about the children's achievements at home.
- The childminder and her assistant are extremely proactive in continuing their professional development. They both attend a variety of training on a range of subjects to help to improve their practice. They are very active in the local community. For example, they provide support for other childminders and run activity groups.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder regularly refreshes her knowledge of local and national safeguarding practice. She makes sure that her assistant remains up to date with any changes. The childminder regularly checks her local authority websites for regional updates. She is extremely clear about her responsibility to keep children safe from harm. The childminder has a very good understanding of the various indicators that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect. She is confident about her child protection procedures and knows what to do if she has any concerns about a child. The childminder also has a very good knowledge relating to health and safety practice, which she applies extremely well in order to keep children safe and secure in her setting.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY336656
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10073695
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 11
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	26
Date of previous inspection	11 April 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives in Witham, Essex. She operates all year round from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. She works with her husband, who is her registered assistant. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection activities

- The inspector reviewed records and evidence of suitability checks for all adults living in the household.
- The inspector observed practice with the childminder and together they discussed and evaluated an activity.
- The inspector sought the views of children and parents during the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed information provided by the childminder and talked with her assistant.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she reflects on and develops her practice.

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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