

Childminder report

Inspection date: 28 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	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The childminder provides a challenging curriculum that promotes the progress of all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), exceptionally well. She takes children on an extensive range of outings that foster their interests. This includes regular visits to the local zoo, where children find out about animals and the different countries they come from. Children become excited on the visits to the local country park. Here, they are eager to work safely together as they build dens using branches and large twigs. Children have great fun as they collect leaves and small twigs and use their imagination to make 'squirrel soup'. The childminder encourages children to listen to a tree using their stethoscope. Children become excited and curious and ask questions as they listen to the water in the tree as it moves slowly upwards from its roots. Their interest in the natural world is further promoted as the childminder takes them pond dipping locally. Here, children use their nets to collect living creatures to observe and then put them back. They like to look through the underwater cameras sited here. This enables children to observe tadpoles and other underwater creatures and plants. During these outings to places of interest, the childminder uses an extensive range of questioning techniques. This promotes children's thinking, fosters their problem-solving skills and supports all areas of their learning and development exceptionally well.

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

- The childminder develops superb relationships with parents. Right from the start, the childminder identifies what children already know and can do. She skilfully informs parents about their child's individual next steps in learning. This empowers parents to promote their child's continued learning at home. The childminder has excellent relationships with the local nursery and the schools. She promotes a three-way exchange of information between all parties. Consequently, there is a high level of consistency and continuity for all children on roll.
- The childminder is enthusiastic about providing excellent care for children. She is warm and caring and puts children's needs and interests at the forefront of her provision. The childminder is an exceptional role model for children. She uses high levels of praise with all children throughout the day. Children are very well behaved and have a positive attitude to all aspects of their learning. They demonstrate fairness as they share and take turns with the resources. This promotes children's ability to make close friendships with others around them.
- Children develop an excellent understanding of the similarities and differences between themselves and others in the local and wider world. They explore a range of festivals across the year and play with an extensive range of resources that promote their awareness of diversity.

- The childminder teaches children about the importance of developing a healthy diet and lifestyle. She talks to children about what is, and what is not, healthy to eat. She also ensures children are provided with healthy meals and snacks. Children have access to drinking water throughout the day. They are highly independent and know that their hands must be washed before eating and after visiting the toilet or coming in from outdoor play. Children develop excellent physical skills and take manageable risks in their play as they visit the local parks.
- Children develop a love of books. They become excited and listen intently to stories about their favourite characters. The childminder uses her voice to excite children and keep them engaged and eager to hear more. Children have extensive opportunities to make marks. They use tools and their hands as they experiment with paints, draw pictures and learn to recognise and begin to write the letters in their name.
- The childminder includes the parents and their children in the excellent self-evaluation procedures. She continues to reflect on her teaching skills and the curriculum she provides. She identifies how to best improve the provision for all children. The childminder is passionate about her ongoing training. For example, after attending training on 'Promoting Games', she developed this aspect of her curriculum. The childminder now uses an extensive range of enjoyable games with children that promote their mathematical skills. For instance, children count the lamp posts on walks and identify letters, numbers and shapes in the environment on all outings.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has robust procedures in place to ensure that children are kept safe and well at all times. She rigorously checks all areas of her home before children arrive and supervises them closely throughout the day. All outings are risk assessed to ensure venues are safe and suitable for young children to visit. The childminder keeps her child protection knowledge updated through regular training. She demonstrates an excellent understanding of the possible signs of abuse and neglect. The childminder has an in-depth knowledge of what she must do and who to contact in the event of any child protection concerns. She keeps her paediatric first-aid training updated at all times.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY345703
Local authority	Cheshire West and Chester
Inspection number	10129064
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	6
Number of children on roll	15
Date of previous inspection	17 August 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2006. She lives in Little Neston, Cheshire. The childminder operates all year round, Monday to Thursday from 7.30am until 6pm and on Fridays from 7.30am to 9am. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Mary Henderson

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk with the childminder and discussed the curriculum provided for children. She observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A joint observation of an activity was conducted by the inspector and discussed with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and the children at appropriate times. She took account of the views expressed in parents' written statements.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documents, including evidence of the suitability of those living at the premises and the childminder's training record.

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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