

Childminder report

Inspection date: 19 October 2022

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 are exceptionally happy and settled with this welcoming and nurturing childminder. They have extremely secure emotional relationships with her and show that they feel very safe in her care. The childminder is an excellent role model and children's behaviour is exemplary. Children enjoy the company of their peers and are incredibly supportive of each other. They offer regular complements and praise, and spontaneously use good manners. Children become thoroughly absorbed in their play and share their toys and resources with ease.

Children are eager to take part in adult-led activities. They are highly motivated as they carry out science experiments. They know that they must wear face shields to keep themselves safe. Older children predict what will happen as water coloured red and blue is mixed. Children use large pipettes to collect the coloured water before adding it to bicarbonate of soda. They are excited as the 'volcano erupts' out of the cardboard tubes they have previously decorated. Children have an excellent understanding of the world around them and confidently recall previous learning. For example, during an outing, they talk about why the windmill is not moving, and identify blackberries, discussing why they have now shrivelled up.

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

- The childminder has a deep understanding of how children learn. She delivers a rich curriculum, providing an interesting range of activities and experiences. Children become absorbed in what they are doing for extended periods of time. The childminder knows when to involve herself in children's play and when to step back and let them explore independently. She talks confidently about where children are in their learning and knows how to facilitate children's learning to continually build on what they know and can do. Children rapidly gain the skills they need for the next stage in their learning.
- Children develop their independence skills from an early age. They are eager to demonstrate how they can put their own coats on by laying them on the floor and lifting them over their heads. Children take pride in their achievements and the childminder continually provides them with meaningful praise.
- The childminder establishes exceptionally friendly and trusting relationships with parents. Partnership working is extremely successful. The childminder gets to know children and their families extremely well. She knows what is happening in the children's lives and talks with them about their special events and celebrations. Parents fully understand the importance of sharing information with the childminder.
- Children's welfare and safety is paramount. The childminder fully considers all aspects, such as how to keep children safe when meeting other people's dogs while out walking in the local environment.

- At every opportunity, the childminder sensitively supports children to develop their communication and language skills even further. She continually talks to children and adds new words to their vocabulary. For example, they learn the names of, and find out about, centipedes, cockroaches and scorpions, as they investigate the different items in the autumn sensory box.
- Children have many opportunities to develop their physical skills. They go on regular walks and, in the garden, they carefully manoeuvre the ride-on toys. Indoors, children enjoy a game of hide and seek and are eager to demonstrate how they have mastered a forward roll. They enjoy taking part in familiar action songs and, when listening to classical music, explore how they can move their body like the wind.
- Parents are very complementary of the childminder and hold her in the highest regard. They say that their children continually learn through play, and they comment on the vast range of activities provided. Parents state their children have made significant progress while in the childminder's care and comment that they would highly recommend her to others.
- The childminder consistently maintains high standards by continually evaluating and reflecting on her practice. She keeps up to date with changes and is committed to gaining more knowledge and skills, as well as refreshing those she already has. Often, the childminder shares her outstanding practice with other childminders to help them to also improve outcomes for children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a very secure knowledge of child protection procedures. She regularly completes training to refresh her safeguarding knowledge. The childminder is fully alert to the possible signs of abuse and neglect and understands wider issues surrounding child protection. The childminder has an excellent understanding of what to do should there be any concerns about children's welfare. She has been particularly vigilant in providing a safe environment for all children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes offering a safe space to teenage children in the local community.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY350873
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10235092
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 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	18 January 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Cambourne. She provides care on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 7.30am to 6pm, all year round, 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
Karen Harris

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 childminder.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about their intentions for children's learning.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this has on children's learning.
- Children spoke to the inspector about the activities they were engaged in.
- Parents provided the inspector with written feedback and the inspector took account of their views.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request. This included evidence of the suitability of all persons living and working in the household.

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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