

Childminder report

Inspection date: 5 February 2020

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

Promoting kindness, consideration and respect for others is at the very heart of this truly wonderful childminding setting. Children are extraordinarily alert to the feelings of others and show exceptionally strong social skills from a very young age. Children invite new visitors to the childminder's home to join in play and seize every opportunity to invite them to share turns in activities. Children enjoy extremely close relationships with the childminder. They show immense confidence that lays robust foundations for their already extremely strong inquisitiveness and eagerness to learn.

The childminder uses highly effective strategies to help children understand the expectations of their behaviour. For example, she consistently uses terms such as 'good choice', which offer children praise for their positive actions as well as valuing children's autonomy in making decisions about their own behaviour. Children show delightful manners from a very young age. They say 'excuse me' when passing by one another and when replying to requests from the childminder they say 'of course you can'.

The childminder has high expectations of children. She provides children with rich and exciting learning opportunities that build exceptionally well on what children already know and can do and challenges them to develop new skills. Children make rapid progress from starting points owing to the childminder's first-rate teaching.

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

- The childminder expertly challenges and extends children's learning while following their own ideas. For example, during play with trains the childminder draws out children's mathematical knowledge as she rolls the train under and over the bridge. This prompts children's excellent use of positional language. The childminder makes links to a story the children recently read about a troll who lives under a bridge. She encourages children to recall the story and their learning as she playfully quotes lines from the story. This greatly supports children in their early reading skills.
- Support for children's communication is outstanding. The childminder uses a range of teaching techniques to create a language-rich environment. For example, she offers children a tremendous narrative and continuously describes her actions during play. Children are extraordinary communicators. From a very young age they speak with increasing confidence and fluency.
- The childminder has a clear vision for her provision. Through highly effective self-evaluation she has maintained the outstanding standards of practice since her last inspection. She has recently been working closely with the local school to better understand and equip children with the skills needed for smooth

transition. The childminder has created a pack for parents, sharing the information gained, and creating a fully collaborative approach to supporting children in their school readiness.

- Partnerships with parents are excellent and play an extremely strong part in successfully meeting children's individual needs. The childminder involves parents in their children's learning. For example, she frequently shares information regarding planning and next steps for individual children and provides a wealth of opportunities for parents to continue learning at home.
- Children show greatly impressive independence from a very early age. They very capably wipe their own noses and dispose of tissues in the bin. They know to wash their hands afterwards and are supported by the childminder, who uses fun and cheerful songs to ensure the whole process is done thoroughly. Hygiene routines are exceptionally well embedded and contribute to children's good health.
- The childminder is highly attentive to children's needs and is exceedingly warm and nurturing in her interactions. As a result, children's emotional security and physical well-being is extremely high.
- The childminder is a superb role model for children and passionately embeds her setting's ethos in every element of her practice, to nurture children to become caring and respectful individuals who are valued members of society. Children thoroughly enjoyed daily visits from the 'kindness elf', who set challenges for children, such as helping their friends, sharing a story together or doing good deeds. These are wonderful opportunities for children to learn about the importance of helping others.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Safeguarding is given the utmost priority and the childminder understands entirely her role in keeping children safe. She has in place a 'staying safe' policy that outlines a wide range of practices, firmly embedded, aimed at promoting children's safety. For example, the childminder has attended allergy training to ensure she is well versed in minimising and dealing with allergenic attacks. The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of potential signs of abuse and the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. She attends frequent training and receives ongoing updates from her local authority and other sources to help maintain her already in-depth understanding.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY355233
Local authority	Cumbria
Inspection number	10129074
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 to 12
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	6 July 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Whitehaven, Cumbria. She operates from 6.45am to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Katie Sparrow

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions about the early years provision and meeting children's needs.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- Parents' views were taken into consideration through written feedback provided.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- Discussions following a joint observation were held and the inspector took account of the childminder's evaluations.

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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