

Childminder report

Inspection date: 12 August 2024

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 confident and thrive in the childminder's care. They have formed very strong bonds with her, and this provides the security for children to become absorbed in their learning and play. The childminder promotes children's emotional well-being and kindness. They show concern for each other, explaining why some children cannot eat certain foods 'because it will make them poorly'.

The childminder has a deep understanding of how children learn. Her high-quality curriculum captures children's interests and growing skills and they become independent learners, showing high levels of curiosity. The childminder uses skilled questioning to motivate children to think for themselves, solve problems and encourage their natural inquisitiveness. She helps very young children to be successful, showing them how to use the door to climb into the ride-on toy.

The childminder has high expectations of children's behaviour. She helps children to understand about sharing and taking turns from an early age. All children move with confidence and skill around the setting, demonstrating their strong understanding of how to keep themselves safe. As a result, children develop resilience and a confidence in their abilities that encourages a positive attitude to learning.

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

- Children are confident communicators. The childminder uses her expert teaching of communication and language to model and demonstrate to children how to say the sounds of letters and words correctly. She encourages eye contact so that children can see how she forms the words. This helps to close any gaps in children's speech development.
- The childminder uses her knowledge and interactions to deliver a rich curriculum for children. She is responsive to children's play and watches carefully as they explore in their own way. The childminder revisits subjects to check children's understanding. She engages children in conversation and skilfully encourages them to think as they discuss how to tell when the tomatoes are ready to pick and eat.
- Children thoroughly enjoy listening to well-read stories. The childminder recognises the importance of reading to children and that exposure to repeated reading of the same book helps young children to cement new information. They join in enthusiastically with the familiar refrains, clapping their hands in anticipation when the wolf cannot get into the little pig's house.
- Children thoroughly enjoy playing outside each day, in the garden or at the local park. They recall knowledge that they have learned and confidently explain how the birds 'use their beaks' get the seed to feed it to their babies. Children know

they have to protect themselves when it is sunny weather. They competently apply suncream and put on their hats. Children squeal with delight as they run under the water spray to cool down.

- The childminder expertly develops children's mathematical skills. Children count as they carefully stack pots on top of one another. When some numbers are missed the childminder gently steers children back to the beginning. She also weaves in colours and size as they talk about which one is bigger.
- The childminder makes excellent use of any new knowledge gained from research or training. She makes sure her assistant is clear about their role and responsibilities. Together, they strive to continually develop their skills and knowledge so that children make the very best possible progress.
- The childminder understands the importance of encouraging children to keep trying when they encounter difficulties, to help them be successful learners. Children make sustained progress, rapidly developing the key skills they need to be ready for the next stage in their learning.
- Partnership working with parents is exceptional. The childminder ensures parents are always well informed about their children's learning and progress. She offers advice about practical issues and encourages parents to work with her to guide their child's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY355988
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10344394
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 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Date of previous inspection	24 September 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007. She lives in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. The childminder operates all year round, from 8am to 5pm from Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. The childminder works with an assistant. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Emma Bright

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 childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact these have on children's learning.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about her curriculum and what she wants children to learn.
- The inspector looked at written feedback from parents and took account of their views.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the childminder's first-aid certificate and records of children's attendance.

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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