

Childminder report

Inspection date: 17 July 2025

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder offers a very caring and nurturing setting. Children show how relaxed they are and how much they enjoy the childminder's company. They snuggle in with her to listen to stories and enthusiastically say, 'Read it again!' when the book is finished. The childminder willingly responds and re-reads their favourite stories and encourages children to choose new ones. Children benefit from time to talk about the story. They enrich their language skills as they think about and explain what might happen next.

Children develop good social skills. The childminder supports children who may be less confident than others in a gentle way. She builds children's self-esteem and praises them highly, helping them to feel good about themselves. The childminder encourages children to become independent in preparation for starting pre-school. Children enjoy the novelty of washing their hands at the well-presented 'hand-wash station'. They make confident choices and are encouraged to express their own ideas. Children demonstrate how well they feel listened to, and the childminder values their ideas. For instance, on World Book Day, children make recommendations to their friends about books they particularly enjoy.

Children enthusiastically engage in play and activities with the childminder. They excitedly repeat phrases they have heard and used regularly at the childminder's home. For example, children delight in telling the childminder they have a 'happy banana' in their packed lunch today, having previously heard the childminder use this phrase and found it funny. The childminder and children laugh together. This reflects the very homely, happy atmosphere where children's needs are consistently understood and planned for.

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

- The childminder supports children's learning and development well. She observes children carefully and recognises what they are interested in so that she can build on this and extend their learning further. For instance, as children use numbers spontaneously in their play, she encourages them to practise counting and adds further challenge to make it slightly harder. All children make good progress from their individual starting points and develop the skills they need for future learning.
- Children's individual needs are consistently recognised and planned for. The childminder works closely with parents to identify how to support each child fully. For example, she helps children to prepare for significant events, such as the birth of a sibling. The childminder builds positive relationships with the children so they feel confident about change and understand what is happening.
- Overall, teaching is good. Children have many opportunities to deepen their

knowledge. They learn about the world around them and have regular visits within the local community, such as to the telephone box community library to share books. Children take part in fundraising events, such as Children in Need, and the childminder helps children to respect the needs of others. However, the provision for children's learning in the garden is planned for less well. There are fewer activities and resources available in the garden, which impacts on the children who prefer to learn outside.

- The childminder's curriculum places a high priority on supporting children's emotional well-being and promoting their good health. The childminder recognises that some children enjoy listening to a particular radio programme when they first arrive, as she knows this helps them to settle. During the day, children also take part in yoga sessions to help them to feel calm and ready for the next part of the day.
- The childminder offers a well-organised service. She works closely with her co-childminder to adapt the provision to suit each family's needs. She completes a regular programme of training to keep her skills and knowledge up to date. She belongs to professional associations, which enables her to network with others and to keep abreast of updated guidance and policy issues.
- The childminder teaches children about the wider world. They learn about cultural events together, such as Chinese New Year, and enjoy watching the dragon dancing. The childminder helps children to become aware of sustainable processes to reduce waste and protect the environment. Children learn the importance of recycling items and re-purposing things that can be used again. For example, children collect the coloured lids from food packets and use them in their play for colour matching, counting and other mathematical games.
- Parents are kept fully informed about their children's learning and development. The childminder talks to them each day about what children have been doing and the progress they are making. Parents praise the level of care the childminder provides and note the positive impact it has on their children's development.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- plan more effectively for children's learning in the outdoor area.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY357390
Local authority	East Sussex
Inspection number	10407878
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 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	21 January 2020

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007. She lives in Heathfield, East Sussex and works with her husband, who is also a registered childminder. Care is provided Monday to Thursday, all year round, from 8am to 5.30pm. The childminder holds a recognised level 3 qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jo Caswell

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises used for childminding and the childminder explained how she keeps children safe.
- The childminder spoke with the inspector about how she plans for children's learning and development.
- The inspector talked to the children to find out what they enjoy doing with the childminder.
- The written feedback from parents was taken into consideration.
- The inspector observed the childminder interacting with children and assessed the impact on children's learning.

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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