

Childminder report

Inspection date:

22 September 2021

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

The childminder has high aspirations for providing the best for children and she very carefully considers their needs. Children build very strong and beneficial relationships with her. She is dedicated to supporting their well-being and emotional development and has undertaken training to enhance her skills in this area.

Children settle quickly in the childminder's home and grow in confidence. The childminder encourages every child to 'have a go'. Her enthusiasm and optimistic outlook help children to develop very positive attitudes to learning and to persevere to try things for themselves. Children proudly spread butter on their toast, pour their own drinks, and put their shoes on to go outside. They develop their dexterity and coordination excellently through exciting and enjoyable activities. They relish dipping feathers and rolling corn on the cob into paint to make marks and patterns. They listen and participate excellently when playing musical statues. Children develop useful skills to support their future learning and their move on to school.

Parents praise the childminder's wonderful support during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. Her 'story time' videos, messages and activities for the children provided a vital lifeline during periods of national lockdown. The childminder has carefully planned experiences since starting back. She has set up a 'social bubble' with another local childminder, to provide essential social opportunities for the children. They meet at outdoor venues, such as local woodlands, for exciting activities and exploration.

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

- The childminder sets high standards for her childminding service and takes extraordinary pride in all areas of her work. She has rigorous self-evaluation processes and works closely with another local childminder to improve her practice. They observe the quality of each other's teaching and their engagement with children, and they evaluate the effect this has on children's learning. They also source additional training and high-quality practice ideas, such as processes to monitor, assess and support children's confidence, social skills and well-being even further.
- The childminder monitors children's progress very closely, which enables her to quickly identify any gaps in their development. She provides a superb range of rich and stimulating activities and resources. These are carefully planned around children's interests, home experiences and next steps for learning. Children's exploration flows seamlessly from one activity to another through the responsive and quick adaptations by the childminder. Children flourish and make substantial progress, including children who require intervention and additional support.

- The childminder places high priority on developing children's literacy skills and love of reading. She regularly shares her 'reading list' of stories with parents so that they can also enjoy these stories with their children at home. The childminder thoughtfully sets out books for the children and matches these to the different experiences she offers them. She joins them in the cosy den on the patio, and children marvel at the effect they create as they light up pictures in a book about autumn. The childminder then skilfully introduces challenging words and concepts for the older children, such as 'nocturnal' and 'habitat'.
- Children have superb opportunities to develop healthy lifestyles and appreciate nature and the wider world. They learn about healthy foods. They grow and pick fruit and vegetables with the childminder at the allotment and enjoy yoga sessions in the woods. Children learn about art at local festivals and show their growing appreciation as they ask the childminder questions about the pictures hanging in her home. Children show an interest in learning about other languages and nationalities. They confidently share their knowledge by saying 'hola' or 'bonjour' in conversation with the childminder.
- The childminder builds excellent relationships with parents. She regularly seeks parents' views about her service and recognises and values their contributions. She has increased her focus on preparing children for their move on to school and shares ideas and tips with parents. They work in unison to fully support children's well-being and development and ensure that children are ready for the next stage in their learning. Parents are exceptionally positive about the work the childminder does. They comment on the wealth of communication she provides and the considerable support she gives them, to help them continue their children's learning at home.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children's safety and well-being are highly prioritised by the childminder. She implements robust risk assessments and stringent safety measures. She carefully considers all areas of her home and garden to ensure that children can play and explore safely. She fences off the steep steps in her garden, and older babies relish the freedom to move independently between the playroom and the adjacent patio outside. The childminder clearly explains what action she would take if she had any concerns about children's care, safety and welfare. She has a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and wider safeguarding issues. She updates her knowledge regularly through a range of training.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY359050
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10125914
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 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	13 May 2014

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007 and lives in Corsham, Wiltshire. She operates during term time from 7.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Rachel Howell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) 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 viewed the areas used for childminding and discussed with the childminder how she implements the educational programmes for the children.
- The childminder and the inspector evaluated the effectiveness of an activity together. The inspector observed the children and the childminder and spoke with them at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of parents' written views by reading their comments in questionnaires and messages.
- Relevant documentation was reviewed by the inspector, including evidence of suitability checks and paediatric first-aid qualifications, and the childminder discussed her procedures for safeguarding the children.

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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