

Childminder report

Inspection date: 8 May 2024

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 children a varied and broad curriculum. In particular, nature and outdoor learning are well promoted. Children are provided with plenty of opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. The childminder's setting offers a large and well-equipped outdoor learning classroom, including a beautiful allotment. Children thrive in the freedom offered through safe and supervised outdoor learning. The childminder encourages children to explore and, in turn, they are incredibly curious and eager to join in. Children have a positive attitude towards their learning, largely because they have fun and enjoy their time spent in the childminder's care.

The childminder incorporates children's interests into the personalised programme of activities provided. For instance, she knows children are intrigued by different bugs and minibeasts. She plans bug hunts to find worms, which supports children's focus, concentration and problem-solving skills. The childminder is a sound role model. She subtly suggests ideas to extend children's skills through play. For instance, children compare and contrast the different lengths of worms to develop their mathematical knowledge in practical, hands-on ways. Children show empathy and kindness towards their friends and other living things. The childminder actively encourages children to be kind and gentle when handling and caring for animals and plants. Children are exceptionally compassionate and behave well. They are enthusiastic, happy and enjoy themselves. They are well supported in their progress through quality teaching and a tailored curriculum linked to their interests and preferences.

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

- The childminder continually observes children. She understands where they need extra support and targets her teaching to help children narrow gaps in their skills. This careful planning and considerate teaching help all children to make good progress.
- The childminder understands how to support children's language and communication skills. She talks to children continuously, asking questions and encouraging children to join in conversations. Children respond well to this quality teaching and they are confident communicators.
- Children's safety and welfare are given high priority. The childminder, alongside her co-childminder, frequently checks the environment and equipment to ensure they are suitable. Children play and learn in a safe and secure space.
- The childminder works closely with another registered childminder. They work very well as a team, sharing responsibilities equally. This impressive teamwork and great communication help to promote the smooth running of the provision.
- The childminder builds trusting relationships with parents. She keep parents well

informed about their children's daily experiences and progress. Parents' written feedback includes comments such as 'Thank you for being a wonderful childminder and for the love and care you provide everyday'.

- The childminder is reflective and reviews her practice. She knows what she does well and areas to develop. This evaluation has led her to identify the need for wider training, beyond mandatory training, to enhance her good skills even more and have a positive impact on the quality of her provision.
- The experienced childminder works closely with external professionals, such as health visitors and teachers from the local school. This helps to ensure children get the help they need and flourish both emotionally and developmentally in her care.

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:

- develop good skills and knowledge even further and attend relevant and worthwhile training to improve the good quality of care and learning even more.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY362479
Local authority	Lancashire
Inspection number	10335289
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 7
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	11 June 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2007 and is situated in the Lancashire town of Bacup. She operates all year round, from 6.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3 and works alongside a co-childminder. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Michelle Jacques

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 childminder.
- The inspector considered parents' written comments during the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to and interacted with children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder. The childminder and the inspector discussed children's learning and development. The quality of education was evaluated to assess the impact on children's progress.
- The inspector viewed all areas of the registered setting and assessed the safety, organisation and suitability of the childminder's provision.
- The inspector looked at mandatory documentation, including insurance, attendance registers and the suitability records for adults living with and associated with the childminder.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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