

Childminder report

Inspection date: 25 February 2020

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	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are busy, keen and active learners. They enjoy participating in a wide range of experiences indoors and outdoors. Children behave very well and show respect for each other. They share resources fairly, patiently waiting their turn for a favourite toy or piece of equipment. Children are happy and behave in ways that show that they feel safe and secure in the childminder's care. When children show concern that a visitor is present, the childminder quickly notices and offers comfort and reassurance. She gradually encourages them to gain the confidence to approach and speak to the visitor.

Children enjoy participating in outings and trips in the local area. For example, they visit the beach to collect a selection of items. Children sort their findings and decide whether they can be recycled or are a natural material. They learn about keeping wildlife safe and not dropping litter, through lively discussions with the childminder and her assistants. Children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, make good progress in the childminder's care. Their likes, dislikes and interests are well known by the childminder and her assistants, who use this information to plan a range of learning experiences.

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

- The childminder regularly works with up to two assistants at a time. She effectively coaches and supports the assistants, giving them feedback on how they can improve their teaching. The childminder and her assistants complete relevant core training. However, at present, they do not focus their professional development in order to help them to raise the quality of teaching even higher.
- Children enjoy role play. They excitedly play in the 'pancake café', which the childminder has prepared. They pretend to mix and pour ingredients to make the laminated pancakes and share them with their friends. The childminder and her assistants use this activity to encourage children to consider new words and to talk about their pancake choices.
- The childminder and her assistants present children with a wide range of planned and freely chosen play. They help children to gain an understanding of counting and numbers in their play, for example, when they count how many sea creatures they can find in the large tray. However, the childminder and her assistants occasionally miss opportunities to further extend children's learning. For example, they do not always provide resources, such as scales and measuring tools, to enable older children to explore weight and measurement. Some adult-led activities do not challenge and stretch older children to enable them to reach their full potential.
- The childminder and her assistants help children to celebrate special occasions, such as the birth of new siblings. They share photos of the new arrivals and chat

to the children about them. Children have good opportunities to learn about other people's customs, cultures and festivals.

- Parents speak very highly of the childminder and her assistants. They say that their children are safe and well cared for. Some parents comment on the extensive range of trips and outings the childminder takes their children on. Others say that their children learn so many new things with the childminder, which they know they have not taught them at home.
- The childminder spends valuable time preparing children for their next stage of learning, such as starting school. She works closely with parents and provides activities and suggestions about how they can further support and prepare their children for school readiness.
- Children have fun exploring the beach resources through magnifying glasses and binoculars. They comment that the magnifying glass makes things look 'enormous'. The childminder shows them how they can use the binoculars to see the birds in the garden.
- Children enjoy participating in activities that help to strengthen their physical abilities. They make use of the climbing equipment in the childminder's garden and regularly visit parks and playgrounds. The childminder makes use of indoor play centres when the weather is bad to enhance children's physical experiences.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her responsibility to protect the children in her care. She recognises the types of abuse and the symptoms that might alert her that a child's safety is being compromised. The childminder coaches and monitors her assistants to ensure that they complete regular safeguarding training and demonstrate a good understanding of their child protection responsibilities. The childminder researches new guidance and initiatives to help her to stay abreast of changes and new procedures. The childminder and her assistants carry out daily safety checks to help to ensure that the environments indoors and outdoors are safe for children to play in.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- improve adult-led activities to provide more challenge for older and more-able children
- focus professional development to help to raise the quality of teaching even higher.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY367345
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10127187
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 to 12
Total number of places	18
Number of children on roll	29
Date of previous inspection	20 February 2014

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2008. She operates Monday to Friday from 6.45am to 5.30pm, all year round. The childminder works with up to two part-time assistants at a time. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lynn Hughes

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the childminder's home and discussed how she uses the space to implement her curriculum.
- The inspector discussed the teaching practice observed during adult-led activities with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including the training certificates and proof of suitability for all adults living and working on the premises.
- The inspector spoke to children and the childminder's assistants at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to during the inspection and through written references.

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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