

Childminder report

Inspection date: 8 August 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

Children thrive in the childminder's well-resourced and stimulating environment. Children show high levels of confidence as they welcome visitors to the childminder's home, offering the visitor the pictures they have drawn.

The childminder knows children very well. She knows where individual children are in their development and the skills and abilities children need to learn next. The childminder has high expectations of what children can achieve. She endeavours to give children play and learning experiences to enhance their development. She is very focused in ensuring children are interested and engaged in their play. Children show high levels of confidence and a determination to manage tasks for themselves. For example, children work out how to balance a watering can before turning the tap on. They know to turn the tap off before carrying the water away. Children respond with big smiles at the very genuine praise given by the childminder for their efforts.

Children behave very well for their young ages. The childminder is a good role model and consistent in managing behaviour. Children are very polite and well mannered, automatically saying 'please' and 'thank-you'. Children willingly share resources and move to give others space to join in activities. Older children relish the responsibilities to help them care for younger children. For example, at snack time they make sure younger children have water to drink and snack to eat.

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

- As the childminder communicates with children, she knows to talk slowly and clearly. She gives children time to listen and to respond to what has been said. The childminder introduces new words into children's vocabulary. For example, she talks of foil being 'reflective and shiny'. However, the childminder does not always consider how to ask children questions to enhance their thinking skills to an even higher level.
- Children are very proud of their mathematical skills. Older children confidently count numbers in the correct order. As children paint, the childminder talks about the different shaped boxes they are using. However, the childminder does not use all opportunities as they arise to bring numbers and counting into children's play to advance their mathematical abilities even further.
- The childminder significantly enhances children's physical development. Children are enthusiastic to play outdoors and are extremely confident accessing the resources they need. Children develop excellent skills of balancing and manoeuvring as they negotiate a variety of different surfaces, levels and steps.
- Children demonstrate an exceptional sense of belonging and self-assurance in the childminder's home. The childminder encourages children to be independent

from a very young age. Children readily manage their own self-care needs. For example, they know to wash their hands to clean away the paint marks and before they eat.

- The childminder provides children with many opportunities to develop their natural curiosity and creativity. For example, children carry water to the top of the slide. The childminder encourages children to watch how the water is dripping from the brushes and running down the slide.
- The very close bond between the childminder and children is entirely evident. Children become fully absorbed in activities of their own choosing. For example, they demonstrate resilience as they persist in carrying water to the top of the slide. The childminder provides lots of encouragement and support. This encourages children to keep trying and to be proud of their success and achievements.
- Children have many varied opportunities to go out and about in the local environment and to places of interest further afield. For example, to give children experiences of different forms of transport, the childminder takes children into town on the bus. She meets with other childminders and their children. This promotes children's social development and enables them to build a variety of friendship groups.
- The childminder is a highly motivated practitioner. She ensures the mandatory training, such as first aid and safeguarding, are in place and continually updated. The childminder accesses further training to help her continue to support children's development.
- Parents are very praising of the childminder. They appreciate how children's physical development is enhanced through time spent in the childminder's garden. Parents describe the childminder as very professional and having warmth and a dedication to her role.

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:

- make better use of questioning during children's play and activities to increase their thinking skills even further
- use all opportunities as they arise to develop children's understanding of numbers and counting to an even higher level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY381654
Local authority	Hartlepool Borough
Inspection number	10398837
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	14
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2008 and lives in Hartlepool. She operates all year round from 7.15am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. The childminder offers government-funded spaces.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Denise Charge

Inspection activities

- The childminder discussed with the inspector how she intends to deliver the educational programmes for children.
- Evidence of the childminder's public liability insurance, training certificates, the childminder's suitability and the suitability of all people living on the premises was checked by the inspector.
- The inspector had a tour of the areas of the premises used for childminding and the outdoor area.
- Interactions between the childminder and children were observed and the inspector evaluated the quality of education being provided.
- Written views of parents were taken into account by the inspector.

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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