

Childminder report

Inspection date: 30 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	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. Warm and loving relationships between them and the childminder support their emotional well-being. Children are eager to become involved in activities. The childminder clearly explains what is planned, so they know what is happening throughout the day. Children show high levels of confidence and are at ease with visitors who visit them. They are keen to share their experiences and share resources with the inspector. Children develop good dexterity and use small tools with confidence. They carefully fill plant pots with soil and add a bean. Children recall that the last time they planted a bean the slugs ate them, so they need to plant some more. Children recognise when they need to wash their hands after touching the soil. They follow good hygiene routines throughout the day, and the childminder ensures that children's personal care needs are met well. Children behave well. They are kind and caring towards each other, and they offer support to each other during activities. The childminder recognises and praises children's good behaviour, which builds children's self-esteem and confidence.

The childminder plans an interesting curriculum that takes account of the individual learning needs of the children. She supports learning with books and first-hand experiences. For example, children enjoy exploring when visiting the allotment and seeing how things grow. They enjoy listening to 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and talk about how big Jack's beanstalk grew.

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

- The childminder has made significant improvements since her last inspection. Appropriate security measures are now in place. The childminder and her assistant have completed safeguarding training to improve their knowledge of the procedures to follow in respect of allegations. Policies and procedures now include all required information. The childminder completes visual risk assessments each day before the children arrive to ensure that all areas children access are safe and suitable.
- The childminder has accepted the support of the local authority who have visited regularly to help her address the issues that were raised at the last inspection. She has taken steps to build her knowledge in topics such as the early years foundation stage curriculum, vocabulary and reading and teaching the prime areas. The childminder has made changes to the environment. Resources are rotated to ensure that children access a broad range of experiences. Children are able to make choices with regard to their play.
- The childminder has forged links with other professionals who are involved in children's lives. She has used the information she has gained through these discussions to develop plans of support to ensure that children make the best

progress. The childminder works in close partnerships with parents to ensure that she remains fully informed about any individual care needs children may have.

- Parents are happy with the service that is provided. They state that their children are well looked after and enjoy coming to the childminder's house and playing with the other children. They comment on the support the childminder gives to the children. They say that their children have lots of creative play and are well equipped for the move to school.
- Mealtimes are a social occasion. Children enjoy preparing their own food, and the childminder takes into account children's likes and their requests. For example, children enjoy making their own sandwiches and use cutlery safely under the supervision of the childminder. They decide what shape they would like to make their sandwiches. They choose from either a stegosaurus or brachiosaurus cutter and receive help from the childminder if needed. They add raisins for eyes and place their sandwiches on chopped cucumber, which they pretend is grass. Children are proud of their achievements and eat well.
- Children enjoy being active, visiting the park, going for walks in the community and meeting with other childminders. These support their physical development and provides time for them to socialise with people they are familiar with. They learn about diversity and different cultural events during the year. However, opportunities for children to see images of families who are different to their own are not yet fully established.
- The childminder encourages children's language and communication skills. Children enjoy looking at photos of themselves involved in activities and recall what they were doing. The childminder asks children questions during activities. However, she does not always give children time to think about what they have been asked and respond before telling them the answer.

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:

- provide children with enough time to think about questions they have been asked, prepare their thoughts and respond
- provide opportunities for children to learn about families that are different to their own.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY388735
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	10350549
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	2 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2023

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2009. She operates all year round, from 7am to 5.30pm, except for bank holidays and family holidays. At times, the childminder works with an assistant. The childminder provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracey Boland

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how she ensures that they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the curriculum has been implemented and the impact that this has had on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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