

Childminder report

Inspection date: 4 February 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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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

Children absolutely thrive in the childminder's superb care. Children, many of whom have been in the childminder's care since they were babies, form very strong attachments with her. They are self-assured and show high levels of confidence as they explore in the very well-resourced, and highly stimulating environment.

Children learn through a very effective balance of child-initiated and adult-led learning experiences. The childminder carefully plans interesting activities, indoors and outside, which capture children's interests and extend their learning. Children, when they are ready, carefully practise how to cut with small scissors. They learn how to adeptly thread cereal onto pipe cleaners as they make their own bird feeders. Learning is further embedded as the childminder skilfully weaves mathematics into the activity and extends learning as they talk together about the birds outside.

Children as young as two years demonstrate exceptional social skills as they play cooperatively and chat in harmony about what they are doing. When they find it harder to share and negotiate, the childminder skilfully guides them to resolve any conflicts between themselves. Children's imagination and curiosity are fostered particularly well. For example, when they mislay a small piece of equipment in the playroom, the childminder turns the task into an enjoyable game where they try and find it, using magnifying glasses and binoculars.

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

- The childminder has an extremely secure knowledge of how young children learn and the role she plays in helping children to achieve the next steps in their learning. Excellent emphasis is placed on promoting children's communication and language skills, using simple, highly effective methods. The childminder asks questions to help children to think and gives them plenty of time to respond. She speaks very clearly and repeats sentences that children say, using the correct pronunciation. This further embeds children's knowledge and use of spoken language.
- Books are plentiful and used for the enjoyment of stories, reading and finding out information by all ages of children. Children show a thirst and eagerness for learning, even at a very young age. Their interest is completely captured as the childminder reads stories and sings familiar songs with intonation and expression. They anticipate and then join in with familiar refrains, or with the chorus, requesting 'again' a number of times and giggling excitedly. Even very young children know how to handle books and they seek out their favourites in the book corner to 'read' for themselves.

- Children show extremely high levels of independence and self-care skills. The childminder gives the children time to learn and practise such skills and routines. She does this stage by stage, until children are able to complete the sequence by themselves. They know to cover their mouths when they cough, to prevent their germs from spreading. They know to use antibacterial gel and rub their hands together, while counting to 15, after handling the pet rabbits. Children competently put on their outdoor clothes. When they notice that mud has fallen on the floor, they independently find and use the dustpan and brush to clear the mud away.
- The childminder has established excellent partnerships with parents, many of whom also use her service with their older children. Parents are highly complimentary about the service that she offers. The childminder regularly shares a wealth of information, ideas and practical support to ensure a consistent approach. This helps parents to continue their children's learning at home, so that they make the best possible progress that they can.
- The childminder is passionate about providing a high-quality service to children and their families. She remains highly reflective in her practice. She maintains a professional interest in early years issues, through personal research and wider reading. Further information is obtained when the childminder attends a local childminding group. Over a period of years, she has attended a wealth of training initiatives. She uses the knowledge she acquires to continually improve on what she offers, and has more plans in place to further enhance learning opportunities for children outdoors.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an in-depth knowledge of safeguarding, and clearly recognises the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. She is appropriately trained in child protection and holds a valid paediatric first-aid certificate. She has secure knowledge of wider safeguarding issues, such as challenging extreme views. There is detailed safeguarding information available and the childminder knows what to do if she has any concerns about a child in her care. Her home is safe and children are well supervised at all times. Children demonstrate an excellent knowledge of how to keep themselves safe in the home and when outdoors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY392587
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10113049
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	14
Date of previous inspection	13 April 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Sprowston, Norwich. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Dawn Pointer

Inspection activities

- The inspector held a discussion with the childminder to establish how she plans and delivers the early years curriculum for children in her care.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector observed and jointly evaluated a planned activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and children at convenient times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and older children through written testimonials provided by the childminder.
- The inspector looked at a sample of documentation, including evidence of suitability of household members and certificates of training held by 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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