

Childminder report

Inspection date: 13 September 2022

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 benefit from the childminder's curriculum that focuses on supporting their language, independence, confidence and socialisation skills. For example, young children show determination as they put on and take off their shoes. They understand the importance of the need for effective handwashing routines before eating. They make confident decisions about what to play with from the easily accessible age-appropriate toys and resources. For instance, young children thoroughly enjoy putting together magnetic puzzles. They call out with excitement that they have made a 'horse' and name colours, such as 'blue', with confidence. The childminder plans opportunities for children to meet up with other children of a similar age. This supports them to become confident in different surroundings and helps them to develop social skills.

Children have a warm bond with the childminder. They show that they feel emotionally safe in her care. Young children thoroughly enjoy imaginary role play experiences together, such as pretending to cook at the toy kitchen. They show their agility and balance as they keenly play on physical apparatus, for example the rocker and slide. Children show a growing inquisitiveness about creative play. Children are very well behaved at all times. From a young age they demonstrate understanding of the childminder's expectations and of the routines of the day. They have close bonds with each other and play happily together.

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

- The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her role and responsibilities. She is keen to continually improve her provision. For example, she reflects well on children's learning and actively enhances her skills and knowledge through research and training. This has included training that has helped her to improve her planning for how children learn about nature and the wider world.
- Overall, the childminder implements her curriculum effectively. She has a good understanding of children's interests and individual needs. The childminder builds on children's interests and also enhances their wider learning through planned activities based on purposeful topics, events and celebrations. She regularly shares children's achievements with parents, who are also encouraged to share with her what children do at home. Children show readiness for the next stages of their learning.
- The childminder is keen to help children develop an interest in literacy. For example, she offers a broad range of books and ensures that children can access these easily. However, at times, the childminder focuses too much on the storybook she has chosen to read, rather than encouraging children to make choices about their favourites to help them develop a love of reading.

- Young children enjoy taking part in their activities. For example, they show curiosity when being creative and imaginative. The childminder warmly guides children to try out new things, such as glueing leaves they had collected the day before onto paper to make a picture of a hedgehog. Children experiment with paint. The childminder reinforces learning as the children name the colours they paint with. Children laugh with excitement as they paint their hands to make even more marks on their pictures. They watch with interest as the childminder introduces leaf rubbings made with crayons.
- Children show motivation to learn. They listen attentively to instructions. For instance, the childminder helps children to develop hand-to-eye coordination as they use safety knives when cutting fruit at snack time. She explains how to hold the knife and fruit and provides a commentary about how best to cut. She introduces terms such as 'half' and 'backwards and forwards'. Children are able to demonstrate their dexterity as they start to master their skills.
- The childminder is proactive about the ways children develop a healthy lifestyle. She ensures that children have plenty of time outdoors, regardless of the weather, in order to benefit from fresh air and physical exercise. She is highly encouraging of children's self-care routines. The childminder helps children to understand the importance of oral health. She encourages them to brush their teeth after lunch with their own toothbrush and toothpaste that she provides.
- Parents are very positive about the care that their children receive. They state that the childminder is incredibly caring and nurturing. Parents add that their children learn something new every week and are developing lots of speech. They comment that they are sent photos of a wide range of activities that children enjoy during the day.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder understands how to protect the children in her care. She completes all aspects of safeguarding training and regularly reviews this knowledge. For example, she knows who to contact should she have a concern about a child in her care. The childminder knows the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against her. She is aware of what to do if a child makes a disclosure to her. The childminder understands her responsibilities for protecting children in relation to photos and sharing these through social media. She understands the importance of keeping herself up to date in regard to children's medical concerns.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- build on strategies to encourage children to develop their love of books further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408776
Local authority	West Berkshire
Inspection number	10228528
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	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	14 November 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2010. She lives in Thatcham, Berkshire. She provides childcare Tuesday to Friday from 8.30am to 3.30pm.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Aileen Finan

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 her evaluation of the setting.
- The childminder explained to the inspector about how she plans her curriculum. The childminder discussed how she works in partnership with parents.
- A joint observation was completed. The childminder explained her aims for the activity and how she will embed children's knowledge further.
- The inspector observed the childminder interacting with children.
- Written feedback from parents was taken into account. The inspector spoke with children present.

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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