

Childminder report

Inspection date: 4 August 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder offers a welcoming and homely environment where children feel happy, safe and secure. They have formed strong attachments with the childminder who is patient and caring in her approach. Her enthusiasm and playfulness help to ensure children feel confident. Children are full of smiles and enjoy the activities that the childminder provides. They independently select what they want to play with from a good selection of resources, and confidently express their needs and preferences.

Children behave very well. The childminder is a positive role model and has high expectations of children's behaviour and what they can achieve. She offers gentle reminders, when needed, about the importance of sharing and taking turns. There are clear rules, boundaries and routines in place. Children respond promptly to instructions, and assist with tasks such as tidying up before moving onto the next activity. Children relish the praise and encouragement that they continually receive from the childminder. This contributes to their high levels of self-esteem and emotional well-being.

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

- The childminder has carefully considered the recommendations made at her last inspection. She has made changes that have had a positive impact on her provision. The childminder gathers the views of parents and children and is reflective in her practice. She uses any suggestions made to inform and drive improvements further. Parents are very complimentary about the childminder and the service that she provides. They describe her setting as 'homely' and 'fun' and state that she has been a 'big, positive influence' on their children's lives.
- The childminder has developed strong links with other settings that children attend. She ensures that she exchanges information about children's learning and development so that she can complement learning and ensure consistency. However, while the childminder does gather some pertinent information about their routines and interests, she does not yet focus precisely on children's existing skills so that she can plan purposely from the outset.
- Children have many opportunities to develop their literacy skills. Children enjoy exploring letters and develop their writing skills as they form familiar letters from their names. Children receive an abundance of praise as they attempt to write their names independently. However, the childminder does not always pronounce letter sounds correctly to further enhance children's understanding of language.
- The childminder has completed all required mandatory training. However, she has not engaged in professional development opportunities that focus on developing her knowledge and skills to an even higher level. That said, the

childminder is keen to undertake further training to help her improve her practice further and fully recognises the benefit of training.

- Children enjoy being creative. They use chalks to make marks on the ground and notice changes as the colours mix together. Children create a menu for snack time, drawing pictures of a melon, grapes and apples. The childminder talks to them about what they are drawing, asking open-ended questions that support children's thinking and communication skills.
- Children are developing an awareness of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy fresh fruits at snack time, and the childminder talks to them about the importance of drinking water. Children have daily opportunities to engage in physical exercise. They walk to school and visit places in the local community such as parks. They enjoy physical games in the garden such as croquet and operate ride-on toys with confidence.
- Children learn about the natural world around them. The childminder provides wonderful opportunities to learn about nature and how to care for living things. She teaches children about the importance of looking after the environment. For example, children discuss how it is important to walk to places where possible, rather than take the car. Furthermore, children understand the impact of pollution as they help the childminder to litter pick in their local area. They enjoy planting activities where they learn about growth, decay and lifecycles.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a robust understanding of the potential signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. She confidently describes the action she would take should she have concerns about a child's welfare. She regularly attends safeguarding training to ensure that her knowledge remains up to date.

Furthermore, the childminder fully understands the procedures to follow if an allegation is made against her or if she has concerns regarding the practice of another childminder. The childminder uses risk assessments before children arrive, to ensure that her premises are safe and secure, clean and tidy.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- refine information obtained from parents to include children's existing skills and abilities to further enhance the planning of activities
- ensure letter sounds are modelled correctly to strengthen children's emerging language and literacy skills
- engage in more professional development opportunities to help raise practice to an even higher level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY416138
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	10209644
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	4 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	23 September 2021

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2010 and lives in Winstanley, Wigan. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at Level 3. She provides funded education for two-, three - and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Karen Cox

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The inspector spoke to parents and also took account of their written views.
- The childminder and the inspector observed an activity and discussed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector reviewed the areas of the childminder's home that children use, to ensure that they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation, including the suitability of adults living in the household, first-aid certificates and relevant policies and procedures.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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