

Childminder report

Inspection date: 15 January 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 are understood and nurtured to a very high standard. They are fully supported and encouraged in all areas of learning. Every child is welcomed and made to feel part of the 'tribe' due to the very hard work and dedication of the childminder.

Children are constantly encouraged to be independent, confident and respectful. They access the outdoors in all weathers. They have plentiful opportunities to exercise and build on their physical skills. For example, they run, kick footballs and climb on a purpose-built wooden structure. The garden is widely used for the children to experience planting, growing and harvesting fruit for their snacks and cooking activities.

Children clearly enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. They receive incredible levels of attention, which ensures that they feel safe, happy and emotionally secure. The childminder sets clear and high expectations for children's behaviour, regularly involving them in decision making, such as where to visit and how to keep safe on the journey to school.

Children show remarkable focus and concentration when learning through play. They spend extended periods of time at the carefully planned and specifically tailored experiences provided. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are fully included in everything.

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

- Since the last inspection, the childminder has taken significant and positive steps to improve the quality of her provision. For instance, the childminder has installed a purpose-built garden room that is known as 'The Ark', where the youngest children experience extremely interesting and well-targeted learning opportunities during the day. She has also remodelled the outdoor space and resurfaced it to allow for all-year-round access.
- Children's love of books, songs and rhymes is evident in all areas of the childminder's home. Every day, the childminder reads with the youngest children during snack time, and with the oldest children after the school run. Children have lots of additional opportunities to listen to, remember, and act out the stories. For example, the childminder sets a table up with a penguin storybook, fake snow, polar animals and igloos. Children use these to retell the story on their own or in small groups.
- The childminder has aspirational ambitions for children and prepares them for their future learning. She promotes children's early independence skills, such as putting their shoes on independently and being responsible for their own

belongings. She constantly offers children words of encouragement, such as 'great try' and 'brilliant'.

- The childminder has excellent relationships with parents. She is widely regarded as being conscientious, professional, compassionate and trustworthy. She works extremely closely with the local pre-school and school to ensure that children's learning opportunities are shared and built on.
- The childminder instinctively builds on children's interests to provide continuous rich and stimulating learning experiences for them. She takes her time getting to know every child and family in real depth. She uses highly effective communication methods which balance the practicalities of children's care needs with more sensitive information like a change in their emotions or behaviour.
- Children's happiness is paramount to the childminder and she will alter her plans or activities depending on the mood of each child in the group when they arrive. She is highly skilled at recognising and supporting different emotional needs. She works with the children to talk about feelings and resolve conflicts in a respectful and calm manner.
- Children enjoy many outings in the local area and beyond. The childminder regularly takes children to parks, playgrounds, orchards and farms, which helps them to understand about the natural world. This also provides rich opportunities for the children to mix with other members of the community. They are well known and highly regarded in the community.
- The childminder is highly motivated to continue her own learning. The courses she attends are specifically targeted to meet the needs of the children in her care. She creates and maintains close working relationships with medical professionals to ensure that children with SEND are happy, supported and developing well.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder is fully up to date with her safeguarding qualifications and knowledge. She has accessed additional training and is fully aware of local and national risks. Keeping safe is part of everyday conversations she has with the children in her care. For example, she discusses the safe use of the internet when children are at home. The childminder has very effective plans in place to report and follow up any concerns regarding safeguarding. The childminder is skilled in identifying possible signs of harm, and has the confidence to support children and families who may be at risk.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY419828
Local authority	Cambridgeshire
Inspection number	10113095
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2014

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in the village of Little Downham. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and a short period of time in the summer and over Christmas. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. She holds a childcare qualification at level 4.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Fiona Wood

Inspection activities

- The inspector had a tour of the childminder's home, garden and garden room, and made observations throughout the inspection of children's experiences.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and took account of parents' written comments.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of all persons living on the premises.

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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