

Childminder report

Inspection date:

5 August 2025

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The childminder provides a warm, nurturing and inspiring environment where children thrive. The carefully planned curriculum, responsive interactions and high expectations ensure that children make excellent progress across all areas of learning. Children are confident, independent and deeply engaged in their play, demonstrating high levels of curiosity and emotional security.

This is an exceptional setting where children receive a strong foundation for future learning. Through inspiring activities, warm relationships and skilled teaching, children develop into curious, capable and confident learners. The childminder's reflective, inclusive and child-led approach ensures that all children are nurtured and celebrated.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are kind, thoughtful and highly motivated. They share tools, take turns and celebrate each other's successes. Praise is used consistently and meaningfully, reinforcing positive behaviour. This helps to create a culture of mutual respect. Children manage their emotions well and resolve minor conflicts independently.

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

- The childminder delivers a highly ambitious and skilfully tailored curriculum that excites and enthuses children of all ages. For example, when exploring the life cycle of a butterfly, children confidently use and understand complex vocabulary such as 'chrysalis' and 'metamorphosis'. They sequence events accurately and make meaningful links to real-world experiences, demonstrating deep understanding and sustained interest. Children's learning is incredibly well sequenced.
- Mathematical learning is seamlessly embedded throughout daily activities. Older children use subtraction confidently in their play, explaining 'five take away one makes four' with accuracy. Younger children build strong early foundations using sensory and visual resources. The environment is rich in mathematical language. These thoughtful interactions prompt children to think critically, deepen their understanding of number concepts and strengthen their problem-solving skills. This helps to lay strong foundations for future learning.
- Children make excellent progress in their physical development through engaging, well-planned activities. For example, they use pipettes with control to transfer water into containers, strengthening their fine motor skills. Older children dig for 'dinosaur eggs' in the sand, using tools with precision and coordination. These experiences support their physical confidence and capability.
- Children are inquisitive and confident communicators. They initiate and lead conversations, which the childminder skilfully extends to deepen understanding.

For example, a discussion about butterflies leads to children exploring different family structures. They learn that every family is different and that all families are equally valued. Furthermore, children have a discussion about a friend wearing glasses. They express kindness and acceptance. These conversations are sensitively supported, helping children to develop empathy and celebrate differences between themselves and others.

- The childminder promotes children's independence, healthy lifestyles and emotional well-being. Children actively participate in snack routines, cutting fruit, pouring drinks and serving each other with care and competence. They discuss where fruits grow and recall picking vegetables at the allotment. The childminder models safe eating habits, and children respond well, explaining why chewing properly is important. As a result, children develop a strong awareness of nutrition, safety and how to care for their bodies.
- The childminder demonstrates strong reflective practice and a clear, ambitious vision for the setting and its future. Training is used effectively to continually enhance children's learning experiences. For example, recent training that focused on supporting children's emotional development has enabled the childminder to introduce new strategies for helping children to regulate their behaviour. This has been extremely effective, and children now independently use the emotion cards and emotion bear to express how they are feeling. The childminder regularly evaluates her provision, driving continuous improvement. She also provides a range of supervisions and professional development opportunities for any assistants she works with. This helps to ensure that they are well-supported, confident and equipped to deliver high-quality care and learning experiences.
- Parents speak extremely highly of the setting, praising the exceptional care, communication and individualised support their children receive. They describe the provision as 'phenomenal', highlighting the wide range of rich learning experiences. Settling-in processes are carefully tailored, helping even the most anxious families to feel reassured. Parents value regular newsletters, developmental updates and practical advice on topics such as toilet training, healthy eating and sun safety. They feel included and well supported. This helps to promote consistency and continuity of care for all children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY422660
Local authority	Stockport
Inspection number	10398602
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 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	1 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Stockport. Her provision operates from 8am to 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3 and employs one assistant. She provides government funded early years education.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Liz Thomson

Inspection activities

- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises their early years provision, including the aims and rationale for their early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The inspector considered the views of parents and spoke to children during the inspection and took account of their views.
- 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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