

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 June 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

Children are extremely confident, excited and motivated learners. The childminder implements a highly nurturing, child-centred approach that significantly supports the holistic development of all children in her care. Her ethos focuses on building on what children already know and can do, which promotes their remarkable levels of confidence, independence and self-esteem. Learning is tailored and highly relevant to each child, so they make exceptional progress. The childminder places huge emphasis on empathy and risky play. Children are exceptionally kind, respectful and considerate of others. For example, older children include babies in their play safely and demonstrate how to use equipment through peer support. Through activities that involve safe risk-taking, such as climbing and using special child-safe knives independently, children develop resilience, problem-solving abilities and the skills needed to assess and manage risk themselves. These experiences ensure that children build incredible levels of confidence and help them become more aware of their surroundings and the needs of others.

Cultural awareness is highly prominent in the setting. The childminder introduces French words of the week and encourages children to learn about different cultures and ways of life, such as the Jewish community, which promotes tremendous respect, tolerance and curiosity. Regular outings to the forest, beach and local areas give children valuable life experiences and support remarkable levels of understanding of the wider world. Children are fiercely independent. They are provided with real-life resources, such as knives and chopping boards, to prepare fruit for snack. As a result, children manage their own care successfully and are incredibly self-reliant.

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

- Literacy is embedded seamlessly into daily practice. The childminder supports children's early communication by encouraging an interest in books, asking open-ended questions and linking stories to personal experiences. For example, by reading a book about school and relating it to children's own upcoming transitions, she fosters both comprehension and emotional preparation for change.
- The childminder demonstrates an exceptional commitment to safeguarding, health, safety and emotional well-being in her provision. Comfort bags containing sensory toys to support children who feel anxious or upset are used regularly. This thoughtful provision encourages self-regulation and thoroughly supports children to feel calm and validated in the setting.
- Partnerships with parents are highly effective. Parents describe the childminder as being a 'pivotal part' of their child's early years, crediting her with creating a safe, nurturing and loving environment that has enabled children to flourish.

Families consistently describe the childminder as 'warm, caring and deeply invested' in the well-being and development of every child.

- The childminder expresses enormous pride in the achievements of both current and former children, such as those now competing in county-level sports. This illustrates the lasting influence of early experiences provided in her setting. These children attribute their early passions to the childminder's provision, and many remain in contact into their teenage years. This illustrates exceptional, positive bonds and the enduring value of her work, the result of which enhances children's skills, passions and interests to extraordinary levels.
- The implementation of a parent support group by the childminder is a highly effective strategy for fostering communication, collaboration and peer support among families. It demonstrates the childminder's proactive approach to extending learning beyond the setting and encouraging continuity of care and education in the home. Her initiatives, such as Christmas parties and sports days, further promote community cohesion, resulting in children and families building important relationships that enhance social development and shared learning thoroughly.
- The childminder's approach to embedding children's interests, such as the love of hunting for bugs and minibeasts, into learning experiences is especially effective. This keeps children engaged, curious and motivated to learn. By weaving areas such as numeracy and language into a context children enjoy, there is a striking level of deep learning and information retention taking place. As a result, the learning is enjoyable and enhances children's involvement.
- Peer learning is thoughtfully encouraged and implemented. The childminder asks children to model speech for others, which promotes responsibility in the older child and provides a relatable learning model for the younger one. This peer support strengthens relationships, enhances learning through observation and creates an exceptional collaborative and nurturing atmosphere. Children's inclusive behaviour, such as adapting play for others and explaining tasks, reflects distinctly secure social development and empathy.
- The indoor and outdoor environments are rich with choice and learning potential. Activities such as sensory mats, busy boards, kitchen role play and musical instruments promote autonomy, exploration and imaginative play. Children move confidently between activities, indicating high levels of well-being and engagement. The calm, respectful atmosphere results in incredible levels of focus and cooperation from 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	EY423040
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10388552
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 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	17 July 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. The childminder operates from Monday to Friday, all year round. Sessions are from 7.30am to 7pm. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for all eligible children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Laura Paternoster

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how she ensures that they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises her early years provision, including the aims and rationale for her early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while with the childminder.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about the children's learning and development, with a particular focus on communication and language.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this is having on the children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The childminder and the inspector carried out a joint observation during snack time.
- The inspector took into consideration parents' written views.

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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