

Childminder report

Inspection date: 28 January 2020

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 is an experienced childcare practitioner who provides a warm, welcoming environment for children. She places great focus on children's achievements and has high expectations of their learning. The childminder knows what children know and can do. She obtains good-quality information from parents when children first start attending to help her to complete her initial assessments. The childminder maintains strong communication with parents throughout a child's time with her to develop an all-round picture of their individual needs. She plans her curriculum well based on what children are interested in and what they need to learn next. Key skills, such as children's ability to use single words to communicate, are given high priority. The childminder skilfully models words for children as they play to help them build up the breadth of their vocabulary.

Children are inquisitive, curious learners who concentrate well as they play. They show they are happy and safe in the childminder's care. For example, they make eye contact and smile at her when they push a toy car back and forth through a tunnel. Children respond positively when the childminder gives them instructions. They bring resources to her when she asks for them, and help her to put toys away in preparation for lunchtime.

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

- The childminder has reflected on many aspects of her practice since her previous inspection and has addressed the actions raised. She recognises she needs to use her process of self-evaluation even more precisely and identify further improvements to strengthen her service further.
- Strong partnerships with parents are clearly evident. The childminder speaks passionately about how she engages with parents, using methods such as her online page. This helps parents to keep up to date with their children's experiences and achievements. Written comments from parents prepared for the inspection are highly positive and complimentary. They say, 'The childminder is amazing at what she does and looks after all of the children as if they were her own'.
- The childminder has a good understanding of assessment requirements. She has plans in place to complete the progress check for children aged between two and three years, when this is appropriate. She is aware of the need to work in partnership with local health visitors. However, she is yet to plan how she will share greater information with them in order to provide more consistency in the support children receive.
- Children are happy and content. They are clearly aware of routines, such as morning snack time. They sit at the table and are delighted when the childminder brings them toast to eat. Children show that they are aware of

behavioural expectations and stay at the table until they have finished eating.

- The childminder recognises when children are beginning to make links and connections in their learning. For example, after children explore pushing a toy car through a tunnel of bricks, she turns the small-world house around so they can push the car through the door. Children continue to engage in their play for sustained periods of time, raising their achievements even higher.
- Children's early literacy skills are promoted well through a well-thought-out curriculum. The childminder encourages children to sing songs and rhymes and access a wide range of reading materials during their time with her.
- The childminder provides high standards of care and children develop strong attachments to her. She is highly responsive when young children show signs of tiredness, and prepares for them to go to sleep. Children very quickly settle on the sofa area with blankets and their comforters and sleep soundly. Warm, comforting interactions when children wake up help them to feel safe and secure in the childminder's care.
- Partnerships with local schools are good. The childminder liaises well with teachers to support and complement children's learning. For example, she responds positively to requests to allow children time to complete their reading homework.
- The childminder has effective arrangements in place to support children's good health. There are clear procedures for managing any medication children may require or if any accidents occur while they are in the childminder's care.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues. This includes wider concerns, such as recognising if children are exposed to extreme views. The childminder knows how to respond should she have any concerns about a child in her care. She knows how to find contact details for relevant professionals from her local safeguarding partnership. All areas of the childminder's home are safe for children to access. Risk assessments are effective in ensuring any potential hazards are identified and addressed. The childminder keeps children safe. She describes how she provides constant supervision when she takes children on outings.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- use self-evaluation to identify and strengthen knowledge and teaching skills to a higher level
- strengthen arrangements for exchanging information with external professionals who may also be involved with children to provide a more consistent approach to supporting children's individual learning needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY429096
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10099544
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	25 February 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in South Hetton, County Durham. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she organises her provision and her aims and rationale for her curriculum.
- The quality of teaching during activities was observed indoors and the inspector assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A joint evaluation of an activity was carried out with the childminder and the inspector.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The views of parents were obtained through written feedback provided.

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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