

# Childminder report

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Inspection date:

3 June 2025

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## **Overall effectiveness**

## **Requires improvement**

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The quality of education

**Good**

Behaviour and attitudes

**Good**

Personal development

**Requires improvement**

Leadership and management

**Requires improvement**

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Good

## What is it like to attend this early years setting?

### The provision requires improvement

Children thrive in this warm and welcoming environment. The childminder builds close bonds with the children, who are happy to come to her for a cuddle when needed. The childminder takes as much time as needed to settle in new children. She works with parents to find out about their needs. This helps her to plan appropriate learning and development for each child.

Activities are adapted well for the different abilities of children. For instance, they hunt for different items hidden in shredded paper. The childminder encourages them to name what they have found, such as toy animals. She engages them in conversations about them.

The childminder has high expectations for children's behaviour. She helps them to understand her ground rules, such as always to be nice and kind. She praises and encourages children, which helps them to feel secure and confident. Children learn good manners as the childminder reminds them to say 'please' and 'thank you' at appropriate times. The childminder helps children to understand their own feelings. Each day, children choose a picture of how they feel, and this is displayed. This helps the childminder to have a discussion with them about their feelings, such as when they feel anxious, sad or happy.

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

- The childminder works with any assistants to ensure they understand how children learn and develop. She makes sure that they understand what to do if there are any safeguarding incidents. However, she has not ensured that assistants have up-to-date first-aid qualifications, which is a breach of registration requirements. This means that children's health and welfare are compromised if they have an accident while in an assistant's sole care.
- The childminder is keen to keep up to date with any changes relating to how children learn and develop. She reads up on any changes and meets up with other childminders to exchange ideas for good practice to support children's learning.
- The childminder has clear plans for children's learning. She focuses on what she wants children to be able to do by the time they move on to school. She completes regular assessments to identify what children need to learn next.
- Children become confident communicators. The childminder encourages them to share their ideas and thoughts about what they are doing. The childminder repeats words and sentences for younger children. This helps them to hear how to say them. Children enjoy singing familiar rhymes throughout the day. This helps to develop their communication and language skills.
- The childminder works with parents to develop children's early literacy skills and

love of books. She provides books for children to choose from to take home to share with parents. Children draw a picture linked to the story and bring it back for the childminder to see. These shared experiences help children learn how to handle books with care and to recognise and talk about pictures.

- Partnership working with other settings that children attend works well. The childminder finds out from nursery what learning they would like her to do with children. From this, she is confident in developing children's recognition of letters. Children are confident to recognise letters in their name and other children's names.
- Children gain good mathematical skills. The childminder teaches them to count in the correct order. She introduces simple mathematical problems. For instance, she takes one pom-pom away from 10 pom-poms and asks how many are left. Children become skilled in taking away and adding more and know the correct numbers.
- The childminder has developed positive working relationships with parents. She updates them on their children's progress and what the next steps are for their development. For example, she liaises with parents to support toilet training. Parents leave positive comments in the childminder's questionnaire about the care their children receive.
- The childminder promotes children's good health. She encourages them to drink plenty of water, and children enjoy fruit for their snacks. However, the childminder has not developed children's awareness of oral health and what they can do to care for their teeth.

## Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

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

## What does the setting need to do to improve?

**To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:**

|                                                                                                                                   | Due date   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| ensure that any assistants have first-aid qualifications so that they know what to do should they have sole care of the children. | 01/07/2025 |

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

- strengthen the curriculum to promote children's awareness of good oral hygiene.

## Setting details

|                                                    |                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unique reference number</b>                     | EY429477                                                                          |
| <b>Local authority</b>                             | Hartlepool Borough                                                                |
| <b>Inspection number</b>                           | 10388303                                                                          |
| <b>Type of provision</b>                           | Childminder                                                                       |
| <b>Registers</b>                                   | Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register |
| <b>Day care type</b>                               | Childminder                                                                       |
| <b>Age range of children at time of inspection</b> | 2 to 10                                                                           |
| <b>Total number of places</b>                      | 6                                                                                 |
| <b>Number of children on roll</b>                  | 7                                                                                 |
| <b>Date of previous inspection</b>                 | 5 July 2019                                                                       |

## Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Hartlepool, Cleveland. The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She has a level 3 childcare qualification and works with an assistant. The childminder provides government-funded places for children.

## Information about this inspection

**Inspector**  
Lynne Pope

### Inspection activities

- The childminder spoke to the inspector about the children's learning and development and how she organises her provision.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector talked to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The childminder carried out an activity and evaluated this with the inspector.
- The inspector read written comments about the childminder's provision from the children's parents.

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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