

Childminder report

Inspection date:

6 November 2019

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

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

The experienced childminder provides an extremely welcoming and homely environment. She establishes excellent relationships with children and they settle quickly. Children are confident and have the freedom to explore and play inside and in the garden. The childminder builds exceptionally supportive and friendly relationships with parents. She consistently keeps them up to date and involves them in all aspects of their children's learning and care. Parents are highly complementary and praise the childminder for inspiring a 'love of learning' and for her 'outstanding communication'.

The standard of teaching is exceptional. The childminder has an in-depth understanding of child development. She has high expectations for all children. The childminder uses her extensive knowledge to plan innovative and highly challenging activities and experiences across the curriculum. This helps to encourage children to be curious and highly motivated in their learning. They remain engaged for long periods of time. Behaviour is exemplary.

Children develop a broad and extensive range of knowledge, language and skills. For example, they go into the garden, breathe deeply and explain that 'the trees are important because they give us oxygen'. The childminder is committed to promoting children's independence and self-help skills. For example, all children, including the youngest, demonstrate accomplished skills, such as zipping up their coats independently.

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

- The childminder knows children extremely well. She meticulously tracks their development. Activities are sharply focused to support children's developing skills and abilities. As a result, children make excellent progress. The childminder ensures that children are ready for the next stage in their learning. She teaches older children the skills they need to start school. For example, they demonstrate excellent early mathematical and literacy skills and enjoy practice for 'sports day' in the garden. The childminder works in partnership with staff at local schools. This helps to support continuity in children's learning.
- Children regularly go on outings in the wider community. They attend a variety of local community groups, such as the toy library and country park. This provides a wide range of opportunities for children to meet different people. Older children recognise what makes them unique. They talk about the different features between themselves and others.
- Children develop an exceptional understanding of the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle. The childminder takes every opportunity to support their understanding of healthy food choices and the benefits of exercise. Children

enthusiastically join in with yoga exercises and ask if they can practice 'the tree' position. Throughout the day, they spend time outdoors in the fresh air. Children learn about healthy practices, such as washing their hands before eating. The childminder gives superb explanations to support their understanding. For example, she tells them that 'germs might be on their hands even though they cannot see them'.

- The childminder takes every opportunity to skilfully extend activities. She consistently adapts activities and follows children's interests to provide further challenge. A discussion about different root vegetables becomes a practical measuring activity as children use tape measures to compare sizes.
- The childminder engages children in purposeful conversations, repeating new vocabulary to help them to remember the words. She skilfully challenges their thinking as discussions evolve. Children learn key vocabulary in other languages. For example, they count to 10 in Spanish. Children display high levels of concentration and are extremely enthusiastic in their learning.
- Children display superb social skills and are considerate towards others. For example, older children spontaneously say 'well done' to younger children when they do something well. The childminder acts as an excellent role model and praises children for their achievements and positive behaviour. She encourages them to show respect to each other and sensitively supports them to manage their feelings.
- Children display high levels of critical thinking as they take turns with the childminder to hide or find number cards. Children follow her verbal clues to find the cards. They independently think of their own instructions using appropriate and accurate vocabulary. For example, children say 'go left, move forward, it might be underneath'.
- The childminder is passionate and ambitious in her vision to provide the highest quality provision. She regularly evaluates her practice and makes changes to improve the already exceptionally high standards even further. The childminder is highly reflective and recognises the importance of consistently extending her skills and knowledge by attending training and reading extensive research.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures. She knows how to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. The childminder knows how to respond swiftly to any potential concern about a child's well-being. She ensures that her knowledge remains up to date, as she regularly attends safeguarding training. The childminder has robust policies and procedures in place that she implements in practice to help keep children safe. She has a broad understanding of wider safeguarding concerns and how to identify and report these to relevant authorities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY431729
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	10127232
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Colchester, Essex. She operates during school term times from 8am until 5pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification at level 3 and a Montessori Teaching qualification. The childminder adopts the Montessori educational approach.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marisa White

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at a selection of relevant policies, procedures and documentation.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written testimonials and discussion.

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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