

Childminder report

Inspection date: 6 June 2024

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 thrive in this nurturing and homely environment provided by the childminder. She supports children's emotional well-being exceptionally well, providing plenty of praise and reassurance to help children feel completely safe and secure. Children are exceptionally well behaved and show high levels of motivation to explore and engage in the stimulating learning environment the childminder provides. She acts as a positive role model for the children and supports them to share and play alongside each other harmoniously. Her nurturing and calm nature helps to create a wonderfully calm learning environment, enabling children to reach their fullest potential in an organic, child-focused way.

The childminder delivers a highly effective curriculum that is built around children's interests and learning requirements. She organises her home extremely well to maximise all opportunities for children to learn. Activities generate awe and wonder, and children become deeply engaged in their play. For example, children's creativity is harboured using dough, pressing sticks and gems in to create bugs. They build on their dexterity and coordination as they press the dough and grasp the materials. These experiences are meticulously planned to help children build on their hand muscles in preparation for mark making and early writing skills.

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

- The childminder has an outstanding knowledge of child development, and children benefit from consistent high-quality teaching. The childminder shows a passion for learning and makes professional development a priority. A recent training course has enabled her to further enhance her already expert skills in assessment and planning to provide a high-quality, embedded and sequenced curriculum. This ensures that children achieve the very best outcomes.
- The childminder goes above and beyond to support children and their families as they start at the setting. Robust settling-in procedures, comprising of home visits and unique settling plans for each child, aid a smooth transition and fully supports children's well-being.
- Children demonstrate advanced communication skills, using complex sentences when interacting with the childminder. The childminder expertly enhances their communication and language development through high-quality interactions. She narrates their play, introducing new vocabulary in context. For instance, she teaches the word 'pattern' by showing children a picture of butterflies and discussing the patterns on their wings.
- The childminder offers children an extensive range of outings in the local community to broaden their understanding of the wider world and people in the local community. Children enjoy visits to farms and zoos where they learn to use maps to navigate around and learn about different animals such as lizards and

lions. Trips to the library foster a love for books which the childminder continues to harbour in the setting with regular stories with the children.

- The childminder shows a passion for providing stimulating outdoor experiences to support children's learning. They enjoy growing and harvesting their own fruit and vegetables, such as, potatoes and apples. Children make rapid progress in their physical development. Children learn to take safe challenges as they navigate ladders and slides, under the watchful eye of the childminder. They learn the action of pouring as they fill large jugs of water up from the tap to wash dolls in the garden.
- The childminder gently fosters children's independence. Children are eager to carry out tasks independently such as putting shoes on, applying their own suncream and washing hands from a young age. This helps children to build on their confidence and ability to carry out these skills in preparation for the next stage of their education.
- Parent partnerships are highly effective. Regular communication is established with parents to keep them up to date with children's learning and development. The childminder's unwavering commitment to supporting and educating both children and parents is reflected in the glowing feedback she receives from parents. They value the high-quality care their children receive, stating the childminder has 'exceeded their expectations of care'. The childminder works collaboratively with parents and professionals to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities to ensure they make excellent progress.

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	EY437807
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10339203
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 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	4 July 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Hertford. She operates all year round, from 8am to 5.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The childminder provides funded early years education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Emily Woodhead

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The childminder joined the inspector on a learning walk. She talked to the inspector about the curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors. She discussed children's progress with the childminder.
- The childminder and inspector carried out a joint observation.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation. This included evidence of the childminder's suitability, training record and safeguarding documents.
- The inspector took account of written feedback provided by 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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