

Childminder report

Inspection date:

5 December 2023

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 the care of this inspirational childminder. They are warmly welcomed into the setting. The childminder provides an exceptionally nurturing environment for the children. Children are given time and the support they need to help settle in when they first start. They develop extraordinarily strong attachments to the childminder because of her kind and caring approach.

The childminder provides children with a highly stimulating learning environment. She uses her excellent understanding of how children learn to provide experiences that help to lay the foundations for their future learning. Children are impressively confident and enjoy engaging in an exciting and challenging range of activities which they enthusiastically embrace. For example, children test out their ideas and hang hoops on a Christmas tree. They realise that the hoops may fall off as the branch begins to bend. The childminder encourages children to reflect and identify solutions to problems.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. The childminder is a wonderful role model who has high expectations of all the children. She sets clear and consistent rules and boundaries with the children and they respond to her requests and routines eagerly. For example, children tidy up their activity before moving on to outdoor play without being prompted, as part of their daily routine. The childminder offers praise and encouragement and involves children in talking about their feelings to teach them how to manage their own emotions.

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

- The childminder's curriculum is based on children's interests and offers a balance of child and adult-led activities. She gathers information about the children that enables her to get to know them and understand their individual personalities. The childminder uses this information to adapt activities to suit children's differing abilities and their next steps in learning. All children make excellent progress.
- Children have lots of excellent opportunities to gain experiences outside the childminder's home. For example, they regularly visit a local care home where they interact with the elderly residents. Children are exposed to different occupations as they meet firefighters and police officers and learn about what they do. This enables the children to gain knowledge of the world around them. In addition, children regularly meet with other childminders and their children to support their social skills.
- Partnership with parents is exceptionally strong. Parents speak very highly of the childminder. They say that she is child-centred, knowledgeable and patient. Parents feel communication is excellent, and the childminder is always on hand

to give help and support. In addition to daily conversations, parents are delighted to receive photos and notes through an online forum and daily dairies. The childminder provides a creative photo memory book for each child, along with a detailed and accurate assessment of their progress.

- The childminder support children's communication and language skills exceptionally well. She uses every available opportunity to provide children with a language-rich environment. For example, the childminder talks about what children are doing as they play and asks them open-ended questions, giving them time to think before they respond. Children eagerly and accurately clap syllables together in longer words, such as 'butterfly'. This helps to support their pronunciation and recognise sounds in a fun way.
- The experienced and highly reflective childminder is extremely dedicated and passionate about her work. She places high priority on her professional development and targets her training to support children's specific needs. For example, the childminder has recently attended specialist speech and language training to support and extend children vocabulary. She continuously seeks new ideas, information and undertakes research to further extend her already impressive knowledge. As a result, children benefit from outstanding teaching.
- Children are exceptionally enthusiastic and independent learners. The childminder superbly supports children to develop their independence and self-care skills from a young age. For example, children confidently put their coat and shoes on and wipe their own noses at the 'germ station'. Children explore their environment independently and engage in uninterrupted play. The childminder allows time for children to practise new independence skills, such as cutting fruit. This prepares children well for their next stage of learning, such as school.
- Children have access to a breadth of opportunities to expand their knowledge and skills during outdoor play. They enjoy reading books together in the purpose-built garden 'book den' and developing their physical skills as they run, jump and climb. Children develop an exceptionally good understanding of growth as they grow their own lettuces and shallots. This supports children's understanding of the natural world.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the signs and indicators that may mean a child is at risk of harm or abuse. She attends regular training to help ensure that her knowledge is up to date. The childminder knows how to report concerns she may have about a child or if there was an allegation made against herself or a household member. She is aware of informing Ofsted if there were any changes to her household to ensure that suitability checks are completed on any new adults.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY446073
Local authority	Rotherham
Inspection number	10301338
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 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	18
Date of previous inspection	18 January 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2012 and lives in Maltby, Rotherham. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, term time only. The childminder has an early years qualification at level 3 and receives funding to provide free early education for three-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jennifer Cowton

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder 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 showed the inspector around areas of her home used by children and explained how she supports children's learning and development.
- A joint observation was carried out by the childminder and the inspector.
- The inspector observed the quality of the interactions between the childminder and the children and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views with the inspector through written feedback.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request, including evidence of paediatric first-aid training and public liability insurance.

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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