

Childminder report

Inspection date:

13 October 2022

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children arrive happily with the childminder after their school day. They chat to one another as they wait sensibly to enter the childminder's home. Children are familiar with the routines and know where to put their personal items. Children excitedly explore the good range of resources, such as craft, construction, board games and play dough. They settle quickly at their chosen activity. All children show high levels of motivation and engagement.

Children enjoy sharing their experiences from home and school. Children of all ages laugh and joke with each other and the childminder. They clearly enjoy spending time in the welcoming environment at the childminder's home. Children say they look forward to coming and have made lots of friends. They are keen to show visitors their 'wall of fame', where their photos and names are on display. This helps children to feel valued and develop a good sense of security and belonging.

Children's behaviour is very good. Children of all ages play well together, taking turns and sharing the resources. Younger children are supported by an older 'buddy' when they first attend. This helps them to settle and supports their confidence. Children enjoy playing together outside in the childminder's garden. They run around the garden safely and enthusiastically play basketball, encouraging each other to throw the ball into the net.

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

- A high priority for the childminder is that children feel relaxed, have fun, and enjoy good social experiences at her home after school. She promotes children's confidence and self-esteem well. For example, children proudly show visitors the construction models they have made that the childminder keeps on display.
- The childminder knows the children well. She gathers information from parents to help ensure she can support their individual needs effectively. Before children start, the childminder offers parents and children to visit her home to become familiar with the environment and her provision. This promotes children's confidence and helps them to settle quickly.
- The childminder has a high expectation for children's behaviour. She is calm and gentle in her approach and treats children with respect. As a result, children are consistently kind and caring to each other. They are polite and say, 'excuse me' and 'thank you' without any prompting.
- The childminder is attentive as children play. She readily suggests additional resources to extend and enhance children's experiences. As an example, she provides rolling pins, cutters and a cake stand when children decide to make cupcakes with the colourful play dough.

- Mealtimes are sociable occasions. Children sit together and chat as they enjoy the freshly cooked, nutritious food the childminder provides. Children show good table manners and pass each other bowls of vegetable. When they have finished, they all spontaneously help to take their plates and cutlery back to the kitchen to help the childminder to tidy up.
- Parents are full of praise for the childminder. They comment that the childminder 'exudes kindness and calmness' and 'genuinely cares about the children'. Parents say that 'children look forward to spending time at her home because it's filled with stimulating, fun and interesting activities and play.' They comment that the childminder provides a wonderful 'home from home' and that often their children do not want to leave.
- The childminder is reflective of her practice. She strives to continually provide high-quality, inclusive care. The childminder researches and attends webinars to help enhance her knowledge and skills. She talks to the children in her care to ensure she follows their evolving interests and continually considers ways to improve their experiences.
- The childminder has good links with schools to help ensure consistency of care for children. She shares information between the schools and parents to ensure children's needs are met. This helps to promote children's safety and welfare.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of her responsibilities with regards to safeguarding and protecting children. She refreshes her safeguarding training to ensure her knowledge remains up to date. The childminder has a good understanding of the possible signs and symptoms that would alert her that a child may be at risk of harm. She understands wider safeguarding issues, such as how to protect children and their families from radicalisation or exposure to extremist views. The childminder is confident and secure in the procedures to follow should she have a concern regarding any child in her care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY456265
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10236019
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	4 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	20
Date of previous inspection	19 December 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2013 and lives in Hitchin. She operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Marisa White

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the provider received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and explained how the play environment is organised.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children during a range of activities.
- The inspector spoke to children, to find out about their time at the setting.
- The inspector reviewed parent testimonials and spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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