

Childminder report

Inspection date: 11 March 2020

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are clearly happy in the childminder's warm and friendly home environment. They show high levels of confidence as they explore the wide range of resources provided for them. The childminder provides high levels of care. She is sensitive to the individual needs of children and recognises when they need additional reassurance and attention. High focus is placed on meeting children's dietary needs. The childminder adheres closely to advice shared from parents regarding any allergies children may have, to provide continuity in their care.

The childminder knows children well. She observes them as they play and develops a good understanding of what they know and can do. She uses this information to plan a curriculum that is carefully considered and planned to help children develop the skills they need to learn next. The childminder is currently focusing on helping older children to extend their early writing skills. She is providing a range of activities to help children develop the small muscles in their fingers in readiness for holding pencils and pens. Children are very well behaved given their age and stage of development. They listen to the childminder's instructions and respond well to her requests.

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

- The childminder supports children's early reading skills in a superb way. She engages them very well as they look at storybooks together. The childminder demonstrates this when she encourages children to count the number of characters on the page. She asks effective questions to encourage them to think, such as, 'Do you think the dog says meow?' Children show high levels of engagement and actively seek out further books to share together.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. The childminder obtains feedback from parents in various ways and uses this to identify improvements and guide her practice. Parents are highly complimentary about the service provided. Written comments viewed during the inspection include words such as 'kind', 'engaging' and 'professional'. They say that the childminder's settling-in procedures help children to quickly develop confidence in staying on their own with her.
- The childminder places high focus on developing children's awareness of rhythm and rhyme. Daily opportunities are provided for children to listen to and respond to nursery rhymes and songs. Children thoroughly enjoy this and join in with key words and phrases.
- Children are helped to understand the needs and feelings of their peers. The childminder demonstrates excellent skills in helping young children to be mindful, such as when they choose to play musical instruments loudly in front of the other children. Her kind, gentle approach is effective and children accept why they need to occasionally change their play.

- Overall, the childminder places strong emphasis on helping children to keep themselves safe while in her home. For instance, she uses the attic space for childcare when she has older children or younger children on their own. However, she has not fully considered how she can help children to develop a deep enough understanding of health and safety practices as they play in areas such as the living room.
- The childminder is keen to develop children's learning outdoors. She is currently developing her garden area with a strong focus on extending children's understanding of the natural world. For example, there are plans to provide planting opportunities and introduce lavender to attract bees into the garden.
- The childminder has a good understanding of assessment requirements. She completes the progress check for children aged between two and three years, when this is appropriate. She is aware of the need to work in partnership with local health visitors. However, she has not fully explored all ways she can share greater information with them in order to provide greater consistency in the support children receive.
- Children who also attend Reception classes in local schools are supported well. The childminder has strong links with teachers and shares information to support continuity in children's learning and emotional care.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has good knowledge of safeguarding. She is confident in naming the main forms of child abuse and describes possible signs to indicate a child may be at risk of harm. The childminder has effective systems in place to share information with parents about any existing injuries children may have when they arrive at the childminder's home. This helps to keep children safe. The childminder ensures her home and garden areas are safe for children to access. Future plans for the garden include measures such as introducing an anti-slip surface to support children's safety while they play outdoors.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- help children to develop a deeper understanding of practices that ensure their safety as they play
- strengthen arrangements for exchanging information with external professionals whom may also be involved with children, to provide a more consistent approach to supporting children's individual learning needs.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY473911
Local authority	Sheffield
Inspection number	10075678
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	9
Date of previous inspection	24 May 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2014 and lives in Sheffield. She operates all year round from 8.15am to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection activities

- Ofsted is aware of the challenges that Covid-19 is currently posing to those we inspect. During this visit, the inspector took into consideration the impact of any measures being taken to slow the spread of Coronavirus by the provider. This has included the effect these measures have had on the current attendance of the children.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she organises her provision and her aims and rationale for the curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of her suitability.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

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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