

Childminder report

Inspection date: 29 January 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	Not applicable
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder provides a comfortable, warm and welcoming home. She is kind and caring. The childminder knows each child well. She responds sensitively to their individual needs. Children are very happy and settled. They confidently initiate their own play, and make independent choices about what toys to play with. Children eagerly explore dough. They use their imagination as they mould and flatten the dough. Children announce they are making 'cookies'. They place them in the 'oven', carefully opening and closing the door. Children make links to past learning experiences. They push the buttons and turn the dials on the play oven. Children tell the childminder 'it's hot' and select a piece of material to use as an oven glove. They regularly check the oven to see if the cookies are ready. Young children investigate technological toys, such as tills. They capably press the keys and smile proudly at the childminder when the drawer opens. Children have good opportunities to develop their early literacy skills. They listen attentively to stories and join in with action songs and rhymes. Children learn how to handle books as they choose a story to read and independently turn the pages. They enjoy lots of creative play. Children recently made a bus from a large cardboard box. They practise their cutting skills, competently using scissors to cut shapes to make windows and wheels.

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

- Behaviour is good. Children play nicely together and, from an early age, are encouraged to share and think about how their behaviour may affect others. They respond positively to the childminder and actively seek her help when needed. She offers continual praise and encouragement. This supports children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The childminder plans a wide range of interesting play experiences. She makes learning fun. The childminder makes regular assessments of what children know and can do. She plans challenging play activities based on the children's interests to move them forward in their learning.
- The childminder teaches children to learn new skills. For example, when children wish to take digital photographs the childminder demonstrates how to use the equipment. She uses her expert knowledge of photography to talk them through the process and gives them time to have a go themselves.
- The childminder keeps parents well informed about their children's progress and shares ideas with them so they can continue to encourage learning at home. However, the childminder is yet to build effective partnerships with other settings children attend, to share relevant information to support a consistent approach to children's learning.
- Parents speak highly of the childminder. They state that the childminder is calm and nurturing, is an excellent communicator and their children are safe and

happy.

- The childminder takes children for walks in their community. They enjoy feeding the ponies and visiting the library. However, the childminder has yet to fully support children's understanding about the similarities and differences between themselves and other people in the world around them.
- Children's personal care is supported effectively. They adopt good hygiene routines. Children take responsibility for washing their hands. Young children try hard to wipe their nose and proudly place their tissue in the bin. The childminder has a healthy eating policy. She provides nutritious meals and snacks and supports parents to provide healthy options in their child's lunch box.
- The childminder reflects on her practice. She knows what she does well and identifies areas she would like to develop. For example, she would like to further develop her garden. The childminder is keen to continue with her professional development and regularly completes online training to ensure her childcare knowledge is up to date.
- Children have lots of opportunities to be physically active as they play outside in the childminder's spacious garden. Children learn to balance on stepping stones. They pretend to cook in the outdoor kitchen and enjoy playing with the childminder's pet dogs.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder understands her responsibility to protect children's welfare. This includes ensuring that her home is safe and any possible risks are identified and minimised. The childminder keeps her safeguarding training up to date. She is aware of any changes to the local authority procedures and who to contact should she have a concern about a child in her care. The childminder has a good understanding of wider safeguarding issues, such as protecting children from extreme views. She understands the need to report such concerns and has clear procedures in place to do so.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen ways to engage more effectively with other settings children attend to ensure children receive continuity in their care and learning
- consider further the ways in which children learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others in the local community and wider world.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY547989
Local authority	Herefordshire
Inspection number	10130846
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2017. She lives in Abbeydore, Hereford. She operates all year round, from 8am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tina Smith

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the childminder throughout the inspection. She looked at the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder the plans for children's learning. She evaluated an activity with the childminder to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- The inspector took account of the views of children and parents spoken to during the inspection and from written documentation.

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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