

Childminder report

Inspection date: 10 December 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment where children settle quickly and are extremely happy and confident to explore. Children form strong, caring bonds with the childminder, who is perceptive to their needs. The childminder places a very strong emphasis on children's developing of communication skills. For example, she asks searching questions, uses stories, songs and rhymes, and encourages children to engage in conversation. Children's language skills develop quickly, and they are becoming confident speakers. Children enjoy the challenges provided in the very stimulating environment and are highly motivated and eager to participate. They have fun while they extend their knowledge of the world around them. For example, children discover that ice is cold and what happens when the ice cubes are covered with flour. Children describe the ice as being 'sticky' and 'slimy'. The childminder understands children's learning needs well. She assesses their progress accurately and knows what they need to learn next. Very young children spontaneously offer help to others. They behave exceptionally well and play cooperatively. The childminder deeply understands children's personalities and takes them into account when setting boundaries.

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

- Teaching is strong. The childminder has a good knowledge of the early years foundation stage. She uses this to create an exciting and diverse programme of activities, across all areas of learning, so that children make good progress.
- The childminder gets to know children well through regular observations and accurate checks of what they can do. She then uses this information to plan activities that are based around children's interests and matched to their individual learning styles. The childminder shows good and sometimes outstanding teaching skills. She engages children well and lets them know that she is interested and excited about the activities.
- Young children do better than expected in particular areas of learning. The childminder expertly builds on their exceptional imagination. For example, children enthusiastically tell the childminder that the pretend instrument they are going to play is the guitar. They take the correct pose and are confident about the wide range of songs that they know. They excitedly pretend to play the guitar while singing a 'rock song'. They act out role-play scenarios and talk about their ideas and what they want the childminder to do.
- Children develop excellent social skills and learn good manners as the childminder is an extremely positive role model. She has high expectations of children's behaviour and they listen to and follow instructions well. Children have high levels of confidence and self-esteem. The childminder praises them regularly and shows them that she values their contributions and achievements.

- Children quickly learn to become independent and to manage their own personal care. They develop an excellent understanding of how to keep themselves safe as they chop fruit and carefully thread the pieces onto a skewer to make fruit kebabs. The childminder uses and builds on previous learning. For instance, she encourages older children to follow the sequence of pattern that they had previously drawn. Children count the pieces of fruit, describe their size and name the colours.
- Children engage in a wealth of experiences that promote their health, physical development and social skills. They get plenty of fresh air and opportunities to be active every day. For example, they enjoy outings to the park, shops and places of interest. The childminder regularly takes children to local toddler groups so that they have opportunities to meet and socialise with new adults and children.
- The childminder forms successful partnerships with parents and other professionals. She regularly updates them on their children's progress and includes them in the planning for their children's future learning. Parents are well informed and are able to extend their children's learning effectively at home.
- The views of parents and children are considered by the childminder to evaluate her provision. She reflects on activities and adapts them to make any improvements. Although the childminder has undertaken some recent training, her professional development is not consistently focused on building on her knowledge to raise the quality of the provision even further.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to protect the children in her care. She is able to recognise the possible indicators of abuse and neglect, and understands how to report any concerns she may have about a child's welfare. The childminder is aware of wider child protection issues that affect children and their families. She teaches children how to remain safe. For example, they learn about the rules of how to cross the road safely on the school run and other outings. The childminder carries out fire drills with the children and teaches them how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- extend the use of more-targeted professional development to ensure knowledge is kept up to date and to help raise the quality of the provision to the highest level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY477526
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10117166
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	23 February 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2014 and lives in County Durham. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday to Friday, 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

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection activities

- 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 the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke with the children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents from 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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