

Childminder report

Inspection date: 8 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The childminder's knowledge of how young children learn and develop is exceptional. She uses this to plan exciting and highly stimulating activities. Children engage deeply in their learning. Experiences for children are planned with precision and with clear rationale. Their interests and stage of learning are given full consideration. Children demonstrate high levels of motivation and are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They show this when they explore how a rotary whisk works. They turn the handle and investigate what happens when they place this in a tray of sand. Children begin to develop an understanding of behavioural expectations and recognise the impact their actions have on others. The childminder gently explains to children when they move the whisk in and out of the sand that this can get on others around them.

Parents are delighted with the quality of the service provided for their children. They describe the childminder as 'brilliant' and one states, 'I honestly haven't got words to describe how much she does for our child'. The childminder has very high expectations of what children can achieve. Parents are provided with a wealth of activities that complement what children have been learning with the childminder. This raises their achievements to an even higher level.

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

- The childminder provides an exceptional environment for children that meets their learning needs. She has excellent knowledge of where children are in their learning through precise and thorough assessments. Parents receive the highest quality information about their children. They say the childminder provides activities that are finely tuned to their children's interests and what they need to learn next.
- A focused and highly effective programme of professional development helps the childminder to build her knowledge and skills to an outstanding level. She talks in great depth about how young children learn and plans experiences with clear intent and purpose. Children make strong progress and are very well prepared for their future learning.
- The childminder provides excellent opportunities for children to explore and investigate objects. This is evident when she sets up a dough activity with items such as a garlic press. She skilfully shows children how to place the dough inside the press, pushing the handle together to create 'hair'. Children are fascinated by this and try to do it themselves.
- The childminder makes excellent use of her home and garden areas to promote children's learning to the highest level. For instance, children are deeply engaged while making bird feeders. They also play with highly stimulating objects in the large sand tray, located at the front of the childminder's house.

- The childminder offers rich experiences that help children to develop an understanding and appreciation of the diverse society they live in. For example, the childminder accesses playgroups where she knows children can interact and play with others from a range of cultural backgrounds. Appropriate resources within her home environment further support children, helping them to develop respect and appreciate diversity.
- The childminder skilfully incorporates songs and rhymes into everyday activities and routines. Young children smile and make eye contact with her while she sings songs, such as, 'If you're happy with your nappy, clap your hands'. This promotes their communication, language and literacy skills extremely well.
- Children behave exceptionally well for their age. They respond promptly to requests and instructions from the childminder. This is illustrated when they are asked to place the equipment in the middle of the table, following an activity.
- High standards of hygiene are adhered to. Children wash their hands at appropriate times, including before they have meals. Their growing independence is supported well. For instance, they wash their hands at the table using a bowl and use individual face cloths to wash their faces after eating.
- The childminder helps children to manage their feelings and emotions. She describes how she talks to children if they are upset and uses vocabulary, such as, 'I can see you are feeling sad.'

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a strong knowledge of child protection issues. This includes wider concerns, such as exposure to extreme views and beliefs. She knows how to respond should she have any concerns about a child in her care. Contact details for relevant professionals from her local safeguarding partner arrangements are available. All areas of the childminder's home are safe for children to access. Risk assessments are effective in ensuring any potential hazards are identified and addressed. The childminder keeps children safe. She provides constant supervision, including when they access the front area of her home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY548185
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10107384
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 8
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2017 and lives in Ferryhill, County Durham. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 6.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Nicola Jones

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she organises her provision and her aims and rationale for the curriculum.
- The quality of teaching was observed during activities indoors and outdoors and the inspector assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder was carried out with the inspector.
- A number of discussions were held with the childminder. The inspector looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- 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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