

Childminder report

Inspection date: 9 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	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children thrive in this friendly and stimulating setting. They confidently explore the exciting environment with curiosity and intrigue. The childminder carefully displays toys and presents activities, both indoors and outside, in an inviting way. Children have fun and enjoy their learning. Learning outdoors is given high priority and children show great excitement when they play in the fresh air. They develop excellent physical coordination as they climb, balance, run and negotiate obstacles. Children enjoy exciting activities within the local community, including farm visits, den building and woodland walks. Children exert themselves daily, contributing to their good physical health and love for the natural environment. The programme is challenging, varied and fun and children develop a positive attitude to learning new things.

Children complete everyday routine tasks with an assertive and responsible attitude. They retrieve coats and shoes prior to going outdoors, wash their hands when requested and are helpful at mealtimes. The childminder responds to children's helpful behaviour and offers them frequent praise and encouragement. Children flourish in their independence, confidence and self-esteem. They learn how to behave well and expectations are very clear. The childminder publishes 'golden rules' on the wall for children to see. Children learn how to manage and regulate their own behaviour. Boundaries are consistent and children behave well.

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

- The childminder has a passion for working with young children and thoroughly enjoys her role. In turn, she is committed to providing quality care. The families the childminder supports offer glowing comments about her dedication, nurturing environment and the close relationships she fosters with children. Partnerships with parents and families are excellent.
- The childminder teaches children about diversity through hands-on practical experiences. Children mix with a range of children and families from different backgrounds in the local community. They develop empathy and respect for others and learn that everyone is different and unique.
- The childminder has high expectations for children and encourages them to try hard and attempt difficult tasks. When faced with a challenge, children persevere until they succeed. For example, despite finding the task difficult, older children successfully climb steps to a slide, showing secure physical coordination. Younger children complete a simple train track puzzle and connect several pieces together. They demonstrate excellent problem-solving skills. Children have a lovely, positive attitude to their learning and play.
- The childminder is a good role model and she extends children's learning through her suggestions and subtly weaves teaching into children's play. For

instance, counting is incorporated into a largely physical activity in the garden. Older children count each time they swing back and forth, successfully counting up to 20. They show impressive knowledge of numbers and sequential counting. Younger children begin to recognise colours and categorise items, developing critical-thinking and early mathematical skills.

- The childminder observes children and knows them well. She plans activities with specific intent to extend children's learning and build their skills and abilities further. However, sometimes during planned creative activities there is too much focus on the end result, and opportunities for children to develop their own ideas and direct their learning are not always supported.
- The childminder has a number of childminder friends who she meets with regularly. They share ideas and discuss teaching. This helps her to reflect and improve. However, the childminder has not identified a precise plan for her ongoing training and professional development to extend her already good teaching skills and knowledge even further.
- Children enjoy playing with their favourite toys. The childminder knows what children like to do and ensures that their interests are catered for. This helps to ensure children have fun and enjoy their play. For example, children smile, illustrating their pleasure as they play with their favourite dolls. All children make good all-round progress in this stimulating and engaging setting.
- Children develop sound communication skills from an early age. Older children have clear speech, a broad vocabulary and knowledge of how to structure sentences. Babies babble, point and sound simple words to share ideas. Children of all ages develop communication and language skills at pace.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder understands her responsibilities to protect children from harm. She knows how to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns and is confident about wider child protection legislation. Children's safety is given high priority and risk assessments are effective. The childminder visually checks all equipment in the garden and takes steps to minimise risks. For example, she sweeps away standing water from the patio to help to prevent slip hazards. The childminder's consistent risk assessments and her attentive attitude help to protect children from harm.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance opportunities for children to develop their ideas and direct their own learning, particularly during creative and craft activities
- strengthen already good teaching skills even further and identify a precise and focused plan for future professional development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY291241
Local authority	Warrington
Inspection number	10129043
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	19 October 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2004 and lives in the Thelwall area of Warrington. She operates all year round, from 7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Jacques

Inspection activities

- The childminder showed the inspector around all areas of her registered property. The inspector observed the organisation of the environment and the safety measures in place to help to protect children from harm.
- The inspector observed the childminder's teaching and interactions with children. The impact this has on children's development and progress was assessed by the inspector. The inspector asked the childminder a number of questions about her practice throughout the inspection.
- A range of documentation was reviewed by the inspector, including suitability documentation for all adults living in the registered property.
- The inspector considered written comments from parents.
- The inspector spoke with children at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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