

Childminder report

Inspection date: 21 January 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
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Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
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Personal development	Outstanding
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Leadership and management	Outstanding
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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 outstanding

Children of all ages thoroughly enjoy their time with this inspirational childminder. Children relate very well to her and receive lots of warmth and affection. They laugh and play together, clearly enjoying one another's company. Children's self-esteem is actively nurtured. They are settled, extremely happy, and well motivated to learn. Children are encouraged to gain independence, try new things and take pride in their achievements, such as writing all the letters in their name on the outside blackboard. Children make choices in their play and select many resources for themselves. They are not pressured to complete activities to fit in with routines. Children routinely ask the childminder to photograph their achievements and send it to their parents, which helps support children's learning at home.

Children behave impeccably and are very sociable. They welcome visitors and are keen to demonstrate their abilities and talk about what they are doing and past experiences. Older children are very articulate, with impressive vocabulary, as they talk about 'solutions' for 'problems'. Younger children are keen to join in conversations, such as discussing why there is a layer of ice in the sandpit. The childminder encourages children's language development exceptionally well and shows a genuine interest in what children have to say. All children make outstanding progress and are extremely well prepared for school.

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

- Superb settling-in arrangements help children to establish a rapport with the childminder and her co-minder. This means children quickly feel secure and settle quickly. Home visits, for example, and excellent partnerships with parents contribute to both childminders having a very detailed knowledge about every child.
- Activities planned for children, many of which are outdoors, successfully cover all areas of the curriculum and take account of children's different learning styles and interests. For instance, children fascinated with weather conditions describe the way 'rainbows are made with rain and then the sun'. Later, they associate colours in a sheet of shiny material with that of a rainbow and use this as a prop in a story they act out together.
- Children gain outstanding early mathematics and literacy skills. The childminder encourages them to count, estimate and compare everyday objects. Younger children relish recognising numerals in the environment and older children enjoy the challenge of early sums. Children's writing, drawing and artwork is celebrated in prominent displays and keepsake folders.
- Children are extremely well behaved. The childminder uses play to help children learn about and develop the social skills they need for successful friendships. She talks to children about their feelings and her warm interactions and loving

care inspire children to behave kindly towards one another. This helps children to develop responsible behaviour and learn to manage risks in their play.

- Children get plenty of fresh air and exercise and routinely discuss the fresh water and food their bodies need to grow and stay well. They learn to make healthy choices and demonstrate these excellent habits in their imaginative play in the play kitchen. They devour a variety of fruit at snack time which they help to prepare. Even younger children persevere extremely well as they use safety knives to hull strawberries and beam with delight when they succeed.
- The childminder helps children understand about hygiene through positive modelling. Children routinely wash their hands 'front and back and in-between' before they eat, remind one another to put hand towels in the bin and cover their face and say 'pardon me' when they sneeze.
- Parents' involvement with their child's ongoing learning and progress is extremely successful. The childminder provides ideas for parents to try at home when children show a particular interest or when specific strategies prove highly successful in helping a child to acquire a new skill. Parents state, 'Her expertise when it comes to the nurturing and upbringing of children is beyond compare.'
- The childminder's accurate self-evaluation is informed by detailed feedback from children and families. She identifies clear areas for improvement and to help maintain and refresh her outstanding teaching skills. For example, she recently improved her knowledge to develop children's problem-solving skills through story making. She continues to share her expertise and support other childminders at local network meetings.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a robust knowledge of safeguarding policies and procedures. She knows how to identify any concerns about a child's welfare and how to report these promptly to the appropriate authorities. The childminder's premises are rigorously risk assessed to help minimise any potential hazards. Meticulous documentation means the day-to-day management runs smoothly and children are very well protected. Rigorous monitoring of the environment, activities and outings means both childminders are always perfectly placed to protect children and to maximise learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	109006
Local authority	Swindon
Inspection number	10125406
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	16
Date of previous inspection	15 December 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1994. She lives in the Haydon End area of Swindon. She provides childcare all year round, except for family holidays. Her operating hours are 7.15am until 6pm. The childminder holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. She works in partnership with her husband, who is also a registered childminder. The childminder is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Jan Harvey

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder. She had a tour of the house and garden and discussed activities and how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the childminder and her co-minder playing with the children during a range of activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents expressed in written responses.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's policies, looked at children's records and checked evidence of the childminder's suitability.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder, her co-minder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.

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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