

Childminder report

Inspection date:

28 January 2020

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children benefit from a unique environment that enables them to engage with a range of animals. They receive a good level of emotional support and reassurance. They are nurtured and settle well. Children feel safe and secure and are happy. They enthusiastically explore the environment and eagerly participate in the activities on offer. Young children crawl around and confidently make free choices in their play.

Older children concentrate well and develop their fine motor skills as they stack blocks and use shape sorters. Opportunities are used effectively by the childminder to support children's mathematical skills as they count objects and identify colours. The childminder has high expectations for all children. She plans activities to support them with their next stage of learning. However, the children are not consistently able to explore messy play or craft activities in the home.

Children develop good levels of independence as the childminder shows children how to manage tasks for themselves. For example, young children proudly succeed in putting on their own coats and put their boots on the correct feet. Children's behaviour is good. They remember to use their manners and readily help to tidy up. Children receive a lot of meaningful praise and encouragement which helps them to have a can-do attitude.

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

- Although most documentation required to keep children safe is in place, medication records are not always fully maintained. The childminder obtains permission from parents to administer medication but does not always record the details of this.
- The childminder draws upon her own lifestyle and resources well. This provides children with interesting learning opportunities, which they might not otherwise experience. For example, the childminder owns a wide range of animals, including horses, pigs, chickens and a corn snake. The children learn a great deal about the world from feeding and caring for these animals.
- The childminder regularly observes children's progress as they play. This helps her to get to know the children well and plan their next steps in learning. Children make good progress from their starting points. The childminder completes accurate assessments of what children know and can do. She uses this information to plan appropriate activities that help children to develop in their learning.
- The childminder encourages children to live a healthy lifestyle. She works in partnership with parents to ensure children enjoy a healthy range of food. Children have daily opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. The childminder

follows good hygiene practices and talks to young children about the importance of washing their hands.

- The childminder provides some resources for sensory exploration. For example, babies explore the different textures in books and know that toys make sounds when buttons are pressed. Older children carefully and skilfully use chalks to make marks and designs outside. However, the childminder does not consistently provide them with opportunities to engage in messy play and craft activities in the home.
- Children's abilities in early mathematics develop well. They competently count in sequence and compare large and small quantities. The childminder initiates some activities which children enjoy, such as building towers. The childminder engages their critical thinking by asking good questions such as 'how tall?' and 'how many more?'.
- The childminder visits children at home as part of the settling-in process. Parents share information with the childminder about children's abilities, likes and interests. The childminder uses this information to help them settle and share positive learning experiences from the start. Parents comment that they are pleased with the range of activities and experiences their children receive.
- Children's early literacy skills are supported well. Children listen attentively to stories and respond to questions. The childminder sings rhymes with children and encourages them to join in with the actions. Less mobile babies are supported to join in. They explore the props and puppets and sit with the other children. However, the organisation of the sessions does not always suit more active children as they sit for long periods.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder completes training to keep her child protection knowledge up to date. She is aware of the signs of abuse and neglect and knows the local referral procedures to follow if she has a concern. The childminder is aware of the duty to prevent children being drawn into situations that put them at risk. She ensures her house and garden are secure so that children cannot leave unsupervised and unwanted visitors cannot gain access. The childminder identifies and minimises potential risks in her home. For example, a strong grill covers a pond in the garden.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
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ensure medication is only administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer.	04/02/2020
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- increase the opportunities for children to develop their own ideas through playing with creative play materials
- adapt the organisation of group activities for all children, to help them to sustain high levels of concentration and interest in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	155266
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	10064617
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	5
Date of previous inspection	15 October 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2001 and lives in Holbeach, Lincolnshire. 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 4. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Sharon Waterfall

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a learning walk with the childminder, who explained how they provide a broad curriculum for children and plan for their learning.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including some policies, qualifications and evidence of the suitability of adults working with children.
- The childminder took part in a joint observation with the inspector. She evaluated the quality of teaching and learning with the inspector.
- The inspector took into account the written views of parents.

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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