

Childminder report

Inspection date: 11 February 2020

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The childminder is an outstanding teacher. She plans activities which precisely take account of every child's interests, abilities and preferred learning styles. Children are captivated by her creative teaching methods. For example, when singing songs and reading stories, the childminder has a wealth of different props and resources she uses to make these sessions more fun, interesting and interactive. This means children are thoroughly absorbed in their learning and make rapid progress from their individual starting points. Parents are extremely happy with the level of care provided. They praise the childminder highly and commend how well she knows their children and helps them make progress in their learning. One parent summarised the views of others by saying, 'My child has grown into a bright and happy little girl and we are in no denial about the huge part the childminder has played in that.'

Children are extremely happy, safe and relaxed in the childminder's care. She offers them a loving, warm and settled homely environment where every child develops a strong sense of belonging. Children look to the childminder readily for reassurance, and she offers them plenty of comfort and cuddles when needed.

Children's behaviour is impressive for their age. They listen well, concentrate for sustained periods and show kindness and respect to each other. The atmosphere within the home is calm, happy and harmonious, and every child is valued for his or her unique qualities.

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

- The childminder uses her extensive knowledge and impressive experience to plan a curriculum which is rich and diverse. She skilfully adapts all activities so that every child can take part and reach their full potential. The level of challenge provided for children is impressive. For example, two-year-old children can confidently sort items by different attributes, such as colour and pattern.
- Children excitedly snuggle up to the childminder when she reads stories and delight in sharing activities together. For example, after playing with the dinosaurs, the childminder reads stories to children to support their love of this topic. They delight in naming the dinosaurs they know, and the childminder skilfully introduces new words and extends their vocabulary extremely well. Children are exceptionally skilled in remembering new words. For example, after the childminder introduced the word 'ravenous' during a story, two-year-old children remembered this and confidently explained it means 'very hungry'.
- Babies develop a real love of learning. They have ample opportunities to explore and investigate and show sustained levels of interest in things which fascinate them. For example, while the childminder sang the rhyme, 'I know an old lady

who swallowed a fly', younger children excitedly found the toy animal for each verse and correctly made each animal sound. They giggled with pleasure as they pretended to make the old lady 'swallow' the animal as they posted it in the box.

- There is excellent support for children's mathematical development. From a very young age, children develop a keen interest in numbers. The childminder skilfully maximises the learning potential of all activities. For example, as one- and two-year-old children play with sand, they excitedly find hidden numbers buried in the sand and correctly start to match them on the corresponding number line. Their understanding of number and its value is impressive for their age.
- The childminder is exceptionally kind and caring to every child. She is particularly sensitive and makes sure that every child feels emotionally secure. She uses innovative ways to build children's self-confidence and works closely with parents to address any individual needs. For example, the childminder recently laid a trail of items for a minded child to find on her way to the childminder's house. This helped make the morning routine calmer and enabled the child to settle quickly when leaving their parents.
- Children have ample opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and develop their physical skills. They frequently go on walks within the local area and enjoy accompanying the childminder on dog walks to the nearby woodlands. The weekly programme of outings includes visits to soft-play centres where children can practise a range of movements. Within the childminder's home, many activities help children develop their finger muscles in preparation for writing. For example, they dress and undress dolls, practise making marks with writing materials and develop their manipulative skills as they mould sand.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Keeping children safe is the childminder's highest priority. She has stringent procedures in place to ensure children's safety, both within her home and when on outings. She takes meticulous precautions and works closely with another childminder so that she can enhance the level of provision she offers to children during specific activities. The childminder's knowledge of local safeguarding arrangements is excellent. She has completed extensive training and her understanding of updated legislation is impressive. These skills enable her to take immediate action should she have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	158984
Local authority	Brighton and Hove
Inspection number	10136302
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 to 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	27 August 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2001. She lives in the Coldean area of Brighton, East Sussex. She cares for children Tuesday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, throughout the year. The childminder is qualified to level 3. Funding for the provision of free early years education is accepted for children aged three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jo Caswell

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder interacting with children during activities, inside, and evaluated how well these supported children's learning.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about how she monitors the progress children make and how she keeps children safe.
- A tour of the childminder's home was completed to make sure all areas used by children are safe.
- Some documentation was looked at. This included the childminder's record of training and written feedback from 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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