

Childminder report

Inspection date: 17 May 2021

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	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder has ensured that children have fun and enjoy a wide variety of active play while being protected in COVID-19 (coronavirus) safe environments. Children spend a lot of time outdoors, enjoying activities in the garden, looking for conkers or going to feed the ducks down by the river. Children enjoy visiting the childminder's allotment with him and they talk about covering up the potatoes and watering the kale and the purple sprouting broccoli. They visit the locks, walk along the cycle path and enjoy exploring the local churchyard.

Children are interested in what they do and are articulate and talkative. They enjoy monthly themed activities based around a well-known children's book. This means that children are able to revisit what they know and can do, consolidate their knowledge and make connections in other areas of their learning. The childminder has appropriately high expectations for children and plans activities that support children to be confident, adaptable and independent. Consequently, children are well behaved and self-motivated.

Children have a strong attachment with the childminder and enjoy affectionate relationships with him. They snuggle onto his lap for a cuddle when they start to feel tired and include him in their play. Children behave well and are beginning to learn about their feelings and the feelings of others.

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

- Since the last inspection, the childminder has made positive changes to ensure that children are kept safe in his setting. He has renewed his first-aid qualification, refreshed his understanding of specific safeguarding matters and has substantially strengthened medication and hygiene procedures.
- The childminder recognises the vital importance of helping children to adapt to change. They have been unable to attend playgrounds and social groups due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, the childminder has adapted his outings to ensure that children experience different activities outside of the home in places where there are less people.
- Recognising the difficult time children have had during the COVID-19 pandemic, the childminder focuses on supporting children to be confident to share and take turns. He appreciates that they need to begin to learn as part of a group in readiness for moving on in their learning. His future planning involves the re-establishment of opportunities for children to enjoy group activities outside of the home.
- The childminder has clear intentions for his curriculum of learning for children. He is focusing on the promotion of children's personal, social and emotional skills, their language and communication, and their physical development. For

example, he is currently using the theme of the storybook 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' to introduce challenging vocabulary to very young children. They talk about Goldilocks being 'curious' about who lives in the house and link the words 'small', 'medium' and 'large' to their lumps of play dough.

- Taking advantage of the increased availability of online training courses, the childminder has completed a course entitled 'Enhancing Language'. This has enabled him to adapt his practice to focus on children's speech development, including bringing together baskets of items that rhyme or begin with the same sounds. Working in partnership with the childminder and his thoughtful interventions, parents report 'an explosion' in children's verbal abilities.
- Parents report that their children learn good habits. For example, they cover their mouths when coughing and wash their hands.
- Parents express their admiration for the childminder's flexibility and ability to adapt to change during the stressful period of the pandemic. They comment that he has kept abreast of the latest government and childcare-specific guidelines and has adapted his practice appropriately. Parents say that they feel confident that the childminder is providing childcare in the safest way possible given current circumstances.
- The childminder conducts research, talks with other childminders and accesses training. He acknowledges that further professional development is a good way to stay up to date with changes and developments in the childcare field. He wants to be the best that he can be, so that he is able to offer the highest quality of service to families and children.
- The childminder helps children to learn about managing their feelings and behaviour. For example, he intends for children to learn that they must be caring towards each other and share toys.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder remains familiar with possible signs and symptoms of abuse and demonstrates a good understanding of his responsibilities to keep children safe. He undertakes ongoing training to update his knowledge of how to keep children safe during changing circumstances. The childminder knows how to record and report child protection concerns and how to manage any allegations that may be made against him. He understands about the role of his local safeguarding children partnerships and his responsibility to work with other professionals to keep children safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- access additional professional development opportunities to stay up to date with

changes and developments in the childcare field.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY385881
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10132212
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	21 November 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2008. He lives in the village of Iffley near the centre of Oxford. The childminder holds a recognised early years qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Susan Marriott

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the childminder.
- At suitable times throughout the inspection, the inspector talked to the childminder and children.
- The inspector read through written feedback from parents 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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