

Childminder report

Inspection date: 13 October 2021

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children are cared for in an exceptionally welcoming environment. The childminder is exceedingly kind and caring. Children form strong attachments with the childminder, which helps them to feel safe. They are very settled in the childminder's home. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They readily share and take turns. Children of different ages play happily together. They gain excellent levels of empathy and kindness. Older children are superb role models and are eager to help younger children. For example, they willingly pass them their outdoor clothes and shoes when it is time to go outside.

Children benefit greatly from the childminder's enthusiastic approach to outdoor learning. They enjoy being physically active, exploring natural materials and learning about nature. Children investigate items such as conkers and their shells, leaves and sticks. The childminder expertly uses these resources to further extend children's language, mathematics and imaginative skills. The childminder has high aspirations for all children. She demonstrates a firm belief that every child can make the best possible progress. She works closely with parents to provide a highly personalised approach. From a young age, children develop a strong sense of self and are proud of their achievements. Children's achievements are enthusiastically celebrated with a 'high five'. This successfully promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

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

- Activities are purposeful and engaging. Children spend time going on a bug hunt in the garden, where they discover insects. The childminder expertly weaves mathematical learning into their play. She encourages children to estimate the size of a worm, make comparisons and count the legs of ants. This brings learning alive for children as they use magnifying glasses to describe what they see.
- The childminder skilfully develops children's communication and language skills as they play. She introduces them to new words and asks meaningful questions. This extends children's thinking and language without interrupting their focus and engagement. She knows intuitively when to step in to support their learning. Children respond and smile as the childminder continually chats to them.
- The childminder makes the most of the local environment near her home. She provides children with an extensive range of experiences and activities. For example, children have wonderful adventures when they visit the local woods, common, beach and castle.
- The childminder exposes children to many cultural and enriching aspects of life. For instance, children learn about a wide range of religions and festivals. They enjoy making and tasting foods from around the world.

- Children's health and hygiene takes high priority, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The childminder has been particularly vigilant in providing a safe environment. Robust risk assessments and procedures are followed to ensure everyone stays safe.
- The childminder prioritises children's individual medical and dietary needs. She links closely with other professionals and families. This enhances her already knowledgeable practice.
- The childminder clearly demonstrates the fundamental British values in her practice. She shows respect when talking to children and listens to what they say. Children understand the need to share, take turns and be polite.
- The childminder tells children about any impending transitions. For example, personal care routines such as nappy changing time. Consequently, children know what to expect and show high levels of security.
- Children learn to grow food in the garden. They develop a good understanding of where food comes from. They harvest their own produce, such as tomatoes and apples. The childminder talks about how the food they eat travels through our bodies. They begin to understand the importance of eating healthy foods.
- Parents comment on how children have excelled in the childminder's care. They praise the childminder's communication and support for children's learning and well-being. Parents describe her as 'amazing'. They note how well the childminder builds children's confidence. Parents appreciate the strong bonds children form with the childminder. They describe how eager children are to visit, even when they believe they are too old to be in the childminder's care.
- The childminder is inspirational and passionate about offering outstanding practice. She regularly reflects on her provision and selects further training accordingly. She takes account of the views of parents. The childminder continually strives to maintain excellent outcomes for children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

Children's safety and well-being are of paramount importance to the childminder. She knows who to contact if she has concerns about a child's safety or welfare. The childminder has a highly secure understanding of wider safeguarding issues. This includes how to identify when a child may be at risk of exposure to extreme views or actions. Children help to risk assess outings themselves. This means that children learn to keep themselves safe without their access to the breadth of experiences being limited. The childminder shares policies and procedures with parents to ensure they understand her commitment to promoting their children's welfare.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY460455
Local authority	York
Inspection number	10067074
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2013 and works in Strensall in the City of York. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Claire Crumpton

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting 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 her evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector carried out a learning walk with the childminder. They discussed the learning environment and how the curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed activities and the childminder's interactions with children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to the children and the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- Parents shared their views through telephone calls and questionnaires. The inspector took account of these views.
- The inspector sampled various documents, including paediatric first-aid qualifications and public liability insurance.

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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