

Childminder report

Inspection date: 17 January 2022

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

Children are highly confident and thrive in the care of the childminder. They thoroughly enjoy the activities created for them and engage with high levels of enthusiasm. The childminder's knowledge of child development is outstanding. She embeds children's next steps in learning into all activities, helping ensure all children make rapid progress in their learning. Children enjoy playing with each other and are highly respectful. Children are kind and cooperate very well with others of different ages. Older children sensitively support those younger than them at activities. For example, as older children explore rice, they allow younger children to join in, helping them to fill the funnels then catch the rice underneath.

The childminder expertly develops children's communication and language skills. Children use new vocabulary throughout their play. While sharing an activity from home, children talk about hedgehogs 'hibernating'. The childminder provides a rich set of experiences for children. They make bird feeders, then take them over to the 'mountains' to put out for the birds to eat. The children make notes of how many cereal hoops there are on the string and go back and check later to see if any have been eaten. This develops their mathematical skills in a truly meaningful and playful way. The childminder uses sign language throughout the day to support children who speak English as an additional language. The children use the signs to express their needs. This gives children confidence in their abilities, enabling them to join in with their peers and participate in the wealth of experiences on offer. Children love singing. They sing songs when handwashing. This helps ensure the children wash their hands for the right amount of time to help keep themselves healthy.

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

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the childminder went over and above to continue to support the children in her care. She delivered activity packs each week, helping to ensure that children continued to make rapid progress in their learning. The childminder also completed video story sessions and socially distanced visits to maintain relationships with the children and families.
- Parents speak very highly of the childminder. They commend her communication and delight in receiving information about their child's day, which supports conversations at pick up time. Parents talk about the significant progress their children have made in their learning.
- The childminder has a clear and ambitious vision. She sharply focuses on her own professional development to ensure she prioritises the needs of all children in her care. The childminder supports her assistants to ensure they uphold her outstanding ethos. She creates training plans for the assistants that thoroughly promote the needs of the children.

- The childminder is extremely passionate about promoting healthy lifestyles in her home. Children have an abundance of options of healthy snacks and meals. Recently the childminder introduced a 'high tempo' music and movement activity. She teaches children about what makes their hearts beat faster and why they get out of breath. They talk about ways to bring their heart rates down. This also promotes children's mental well-being.
- The outside area is particularly well planned with bright, interesting, and stimulating activities for all children. Children take risks as they use a rope to pull themselves up a climbing frame. Outside of the home, children experience how to manage risks climbing trees and exploring forest areas. The childminder uses her excellent skills to sensitively intervene when children are more cautious. This helps children gain an astute awareness of how to keep themselves safe.
- Children show an extraordinary amount of independence. Young children know automatically to go to the bathroom to wash their faces after lunch and use a flannel to dry them. All children can drink from an open cup from a very young age and use knives and forks proficiently. While out on walks in the 'mountains,' children independently use their creative minds to choose activities. For example, some children use mud to paint trees, while others climb them.
- The childminder expertly ensures that all children are included in celebrations. Recently the childminder celebrated Thanksgiving. Parents enjoy getting involved and made 'pumpkin pie' for the children to try. Children learn all about the meaning of Thanksgiving and create 'thankful handprints' with their families. On other occasions, the children create a mosque, a temple and a church. They talk about their first-hand experiences of these places of worship. This allows children to have a secure sense of identity as they celebrate their individuality.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder demonstrates a robust knowledge and understanding of the signs that may indicate a child is at risk from abuse and neglect. She keeps up to date with safeguarding training. The childminder has an expert knowledge of the procedures to follow in the event of any concern about a child or an adult. Children's absences are monitored, and the childminder checks in on families to ensure there are no concerns about the family's well-being. The childminder plans frequent supervision meetings with her assistants to ensure their ongoing suitability.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY334289
Local authority	Luton
Inspection number	10137523
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 1
Total number of places	11
Number of children on roll	11
Date of previous inspection	24 November 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives in Luton, Bedfordshire. She operates all year round from 7.30 am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays, family holidays and a week at Christmas. The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lisa Smith

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 provider and has taken that into account in the evaluations of the provider.
- The childminder and the inspector completed a learning walk together of all the areas of the home and discussed their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation of a group activity with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- Suitability checks were reviewed, and other documentation sampled, such as children's accident and existing injury records and safeguarding policies and procedures.

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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