

Childminder report

Inspection date: 12 October 2022

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

The provision is good

Children benefit from their time with the childminder and her assistant. They demonstrate warm bonds with both adults and are very happy and emotionally secure in their care. Babies settle very well. They show interest and curiosity in their environment and are particularly keen to watch the older children as they play. Older children display exceptionally good behaviour at all times. They are very confident to speak to one another and the adults who care for them. Older children show concentration and enjoyment in their activities. They are willing to try new things. For example, they use tools, such as a screwdriver, to help open the cages of the tortoises. They understand concepts, such as 'turn'. Older children show respect and care as they help get the tortoises ready for hibernation.

Children are well prepared for the next stages of their learning. They thoroughly enjoy the childminder's curriculum, which focuses on the outdoors, nature and the wider world. Daily outings, regardless of weather, include visits to local woods and heathlands, pond dipping, visiting the nearby train station and a range of sensory experiences. Children show interest and fascination about what they learn, including the changing seasons, foraging for wild mushrooms and learning about the safety of what to eat and what not to eat. They are confident to share their knowledge and have started to understand that books can be used for a range of different purposes, including as a research tool.

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

- The childminder has an effective working partnership with her assistant. They plan very well together to support the ways children learn and build their knowledge. The childminder and her assistant are keen to continually improve their practice, including by undertaking further training, to enhance the outcomes for children.
- Practice to support how older children develop a love of books and reading is very well established. Children are encouraged to bring in books from home to read and enjoy together in the setting. The childminder and her assistant plan appropriate opportunities to spend with the older children, to ensure uninterrupted and quality time is spent reading. As a result, children are highly engaged and very eager to learn and take part. Children take turns to talk about what they see in the illustrations. They are confident to share their ideas and speak about what they identify. Purposeful discussions take place about who the characters are.
- The childminder is very encouraging of older children's language and communication. She is proficient in how she uses open questions and listens to what children say. Her warm and caring manner engages babies, for instance during peekaboo games and early role play. However, at times, she is less

confident in the ways she extends this play time with babies to help them build on their emerging language skills.

- Children speak confidently about what they know and understand. For example, they are keen to look for creatures living in the garden habitat. They know the names for a 'woodlouse' and a 'slug'. They talk about the different colours. Children identify that the woodlouse has curled into a ball for protection. They confidently understand that when holding the woodlouse, it feels 'light'. Children show care and respect and they carefully put the creatures back from where they found them.
- Children feel safe and secure. They are motivated and eager to learn. Babies enjoy a sensory activity and explore with resources that help them to understand textures outdoors. Older children develop their mathematical awareness. They use leaves collected from their walk the day before to learn more about measurements and sorting. Children confidently distinguish 'long' and 'short' leaves.
- The childminder sensitively promotes children's personal development and emotional security. Older children show independence as they help to tidy up their toys and set the table for lunch. They show awareness of hygiene routines, particularly for self-care and effective handwashing. Babies' sleep routines are followed securely so that they can wake refreshed and ready to resume play. Regular checks are made to monitor sleeping children.
- Parents are positive about the care provided. They state that the childminder and her assistant have professional attitudes and are good communicators. Parents add that their children love attending and thoroughly enjoy the brilliant ideas and activities offered to them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to protect the children in her care. She understands the requirements for working with an assistant and helps to ensure that her assistant's knowledge and training are up to date in all aspects of safeguarding matters. The childminder is confident to demonstrate her safeguarding awareness. For example, she knows the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against her. She is aware of what to do if a child makes a disclosure to her. The childminder understands her responsibilities for protecting children in relation to social media platforms.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- enhance the learning opportunities to support the ways babies and toddlers develop their early language and communication skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY457931
Local authority	Bracknell Forest
Inspection number	10228770
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	0 to 3
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	7
Date of previous inspection	23 November 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2013. She lives in Sandhurst, Berkshire. The childminder works with her husband, who is her assistant. Their setting is open Monday to Thursday, all day, for most of the year. The childminder holds a recognised childcare qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Aileen Finan

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 her evaluation of the provider.
- A learning walk was completed. The childminder explained how she plans her curriculum and assesses children's learning.
- The inspector observed the childminder and her assistant interacting with children indoors and outdoors. A joint observation was completed. The childminder explained how she works in partnership with her assistant.
- The inspector spoke with children and read written feedback from parents.
- Documentation was sampled during the inspection.

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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