

Childminder report

Inspection date:

6 February 2023

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 thrive in this wonderfully effective setting. The childminder has created a highly ambitious and challenging curriculum. She uses her superb knowledge of the children to plan activities that excite and engage them. The childminder places a high priority on providing an extensive range of activities that build and shape children's understanding of the world. For example, the children explore the seaside town and learn about beach safety. They have become junior Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) members, as this is a huge part of the community where they live.

Children show incredibly high levels of happiness and security. They respond positively to the childminder when she asks them to tidy away. Children demonstrate impeccable behaviour. When praised for completing a task, children say, 'Thank you', and beam with pride. They are incredibly confident and showcase their accomplished social skills through their play.

Children are making exceptional progress in their learning. They learn about the cold weather and search for birds in the local woods with their binoculars. Children make bird feeders, which they take home to place in their gardens. They learn about the properties of ice and use tools to remove objects that have been frozen in ice blocks.

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

- Children access a broad and ambitious curriculum. The childminder uses her expert knowledge of child development to create learning experiences that challenge and extend children's knowledge and skills. The progressive curriculum ensures that children make rapid progress in their learning. For example, they use prior knowledge of cold weather to learn about ice. The childminder extends this further to teach children about the Arctic and Antarctic. As a result, children's knowledge of the wider world is constantly expanding.
- Children consistently build on what they already know and can do. The childminder skilfully weaves prior teaching and learning into play. For example, at the dough table, children practise their cutting skills with small plastic scissors. They develop the important muscle strength and fine motor skills in readiness for using bigger scissors. Mathematical concepts and vocabulary are expertly entwined into play. Children extend their already impressive knowledge as they engage in enjoyable activities. They count objects with confidence and match quantities to numerals. Children recognise a wide range of colours and the effects of mixing two colours together. They accurately name letter sounds and identify the letters in their names with confidence.
- Children radiate enjoyment and positivity as they learn. They approach all

activities with excitement and enthusiasm. Children construct a pyramid from a range of pieces. The childminder uses language such as 'smallest', 'small' and 'biggest' when supporting children with the construction. They use their superb concentration and problem-solving skills to successfully construct the pyramid. Children show excitement and ask to do it again. They are developing an infectious 'can do' attitude to their learning.

- The childminder fully recognises that children arrive at her setting with different experiences. The well-structured and inclusive curriculum substantially enhances and extends experiences for all children. For example, children have adopted a lemur and are junior RNLi members. Children engage in a range of celebrations to develop their cultural awareness and positive sense of identity. The childminder helped children to understand about the war in Ukraine. They collected donations to show their support.
- The childminder is incredibly passionate and enthusiastic about her work with children. She demonstrates a 'can do' attitude that transfers to children. She regularly reviews the impact of the curriculum on children's learning and quickly identifies areas for improvement and ways to propel children's learning. The childminder gathers regular feedback from parents about her service and speaks with local schools about their expectations and how she can best prepare children for school. Teachers are invited to the setting during the summer term to meet the children. This results in seamless transitions between the setting and school.
- Parents are exceptionally happy with the care and education their children receive. They consistently commend her for broadening children's experiences and supporting their learning. They feel confident that their children are kept safe and experience high-quality care.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has developed robust and effective systems to help keep children safe. She is able to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse. The childminder ensures that her knowledge of child protection is kept up to date. This means that she has a secure understanding of what to do in the event of a concern. The childminder has created a safe and secure environment. She has protocols in place for administering medicines and responding to medical emergencies. Children with specific medical conditions have care plans in place. The childminder teaches children how to stay safe while on outings, and they practise regular fire drills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY217880
Local authority	Southend-on-Sea
Inspection number	10276545
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	2 to 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	20 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1981. She lives in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Clare Ford

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 childminder.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how they ensure it is safe and suitable.
- The childminder and inspector discussed how the curriculum had been implemented and the impact this has had on children's learning.
- Children spoke to the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection 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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