

Childminder report

Inspection date: 7 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 flourish in the welcoming, safe and homely environment. They benefit greatly from a range of exciting, stimulating and challenging activities, and behave exceptionally well. The well-organised environment promotes children's natural curiosity. Children are enthusiastic, inquisitive and highly motivated to learn. They develop excellent communication skills and confidently articulate what they know and can do. For example, children recall prior learning and describe their favourite bird, the southern ground hornbill, describing the bird's features having, 'a fire coloured neck and a red honking beak'.

All children develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They learn to manage their own needs independently and express their creativity freely. Children are confident to ask for help and support when needed, which is entirely forthcoming from the nurturing childminder.

Children show impressive levels of concentration and perseverance as they master and consolidate their skills. For example, they develop the small muscles in their hands and refine their hand-to-eye coordination as they pick up different-sized pom-poms with tweezers and transport them into coloured pots. Learning is expertly challenged by the childminder. For instance, she encourages children to select the 'transparent' pot and discusses the meaning of the new word. This supports young children to develop the essential skills required in preparation for writing, as well as introducing new words to their superb vocabulary.

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

- The childminder has extensive knowledge and experience over many years of working with children. This is evident in the way she demonstrates skilful interactions with children. The childminder plans an ambitious curriculum that truly reflects children's individual needs and interests. She has wonderfully high expectations of children, who benefit from her commitment and enthusiasm.
- The childminder is an excellent role model, with high expectations. All children are exceptionally well behaved. The childminder teaches children to take turns, share resources and be kind to each other. For example, children respond to a 'thank you' with 'you're welcome,' and when the childminder praises their sharing skills, children express how they are 'a team'. Children confidently decide what they want to play, choose resources and offer to tidy away unprompted.
- Partnerships with parents are excellent. Parents report that their children make very good progress. They also speak of the excellent practical and emotional support they have received from the childminder.
- All children have an enormous love of books and reading. The childminder reads with great enthusiasm and expression, and knows children's favourite stories.

She names objects and uses descriptive language as she talks about the characters or subject. For example, the childminder reads with a child who has an interest in vehicles. She skilfully describes a stretched limousine, a penny farthing, electric cars and how energy can be powered by a range of sources, including the sun and solar panels. This successfully builds on the child's understanding and enhances their growing vocabularies.

- The childminder values and respects children's unique needs and individuality, and ensures that her practice is fully inclusive. She skilfully teaches children about difference and diversity and encourages them to develop an astute understanding of communities wider than their own. This successfully helps to prepare children for life in modern Britain.
- Children's health and well-being are supported tremendously well by the childminder. Children benefit from excellent opportunities to access fresh air daily. For example, they develop balance and coordination as they negotiate the game of hop-scotch. Children delight in walking to places of interest in the local community and enjoy being part of a larger group as they socialise with their friends at the local singing group. They follow stringent hygiene procedures, learn the importance of good dental health and enjoy healthy and nutritious meals and snacks.
- The childminder is dedicated, and passionate about her work. She strives to be the very best childminder that she can. The childminder attends purposeful training opportunities that have a significant impact on sustaining excellent outcomes for children. For example, recent training has helped her examine her curriculum content, strengthening her knowledge to give children the best opportunities she can. The training has helped her focus teaching in a sequenced way, recognising the importance of early language and literacy skills to help children embed learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to keep children safe. She has an in-depth awareness of all safeguarding issues that may affect children's well-being and welfare. The childminder is extremely secure in the process of reporting child protection concerns and knows how to identify potential signs of abuse. Children's welfare is paramount and central to the childminder's practice. She takes exceptional care to ensure her practice reflects changes in guidance and legislation. Robust risk assessments are completed for all areas of her home and when on outings, to ensure that children are safe when in her care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY483767
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10264002
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	3 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Date of previous inspection	18 May 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2014. She lives in Bicester, Oxfordshire. The childminder operates Tuesday to Friday from 7.30am to 5.30pm, all year round, except for family holidays and bank holidays. She receives funding to provide free early years education to children aged three and four years. The childminder holds a relevant qualification at level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Amanda Perkin

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 had a learning walk with the childminder through all areas of the premises used by the children.
- Parents shared their views through written feedback. The inspector took these views into account.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder about the leadership of the setting.
- The inspector looked at a sample of the documentation. This included evidence of suitability and training records.

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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