

Childminder report

Inspection date: 17 February 2023

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 are happy, settled and confident in the childminder's welcoming home. They are greeted positively by the childminder, who knows the children and their families well. Children are keen learners. They move freely around the large learning space and find friends to play with. Children are fond of the childminder and spontaneously seek reassurance and cuddles from her. This helps to promote children's self-esteem and confidence. Children know the daily routines well, and on arrival they independently put away their lunch boxes. They excitedly discuss what they have for lunch today and compare this with their friends.

Children learn good social skills from the childminder, who has high expectations for their behaviour. For example, they are gently encouraged to share toy animals with children who do not have any. Children have access to an engaging curriculum which is built around children's interests and preferences. They have access to fresh air and exercise every day. Children learn about their environment when they go to places of interest, such as the forest to hunt for bugs. They enjoy exploring the leaves and trees and think about where bugs might hide. Children happily recall the 'big bug' they found on a recent visit and discuss how many legs the bugs had.

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

- The childminder provides an engaging curriculum which takes into account children's ideas and their previous learning. She has a good understanding of what children need to learn next. The childminder assesses children's progress and plans interesting and engaging activities. She has a clear vision for her setting and is passionate about encouraging children to be independent, confident and kind. Her motto is 'care and share or it's not fair'. Children repeat this to each other, helping to regulate their own behaviour. The childminder engages children in discussion as they play. However, on occasion, she does not provide opportunities to challenge children's thinking skills, which would help them to express their own ideas.
- Parents speak highly of the support they and their children receive at the childminder's, and say she is 'so reliable and flexible'. They are grateful for the tailored support they are offered. For example, the childminder supports parents to manage their children's individual needs, such as food intolerances. The childminder works closely with professionals involved in children's care, including those children who need additional learning support. The childminder has developed good links with the local schools. She communicates with teachers about the children who are moving onto school, and helps to prepare children for the next stage in their learning. The childminder also liaises with local pre-schools with whom she shares care. This helps to ensure a consistent approach to support children's learning.

- Children are eager and curious learners. They have very positive attitudes towards learning and display good independence. They decide which playroom to spend time in and make their own choices about their play. For instance, children have access to a large selection of resources which are stored at their level. They spend time with their friends smiling happily. Children concentrate well as they play together to furnish a doll's house. They take time selecting the required furniture and discuss the best room to place it in.
- Children sit together to share lunchtimes with their friends. They independently open their packets of food and their own food tubs. The childminder promotes good hygiene and is quick to remind children of her expectations. For example, before children eat their lunch, the childminder checks that they have washed their hands using soap. Children smile as they hold their hands up to the childminder to show they are clean. The childminder praises them for following good hygiene procedures and children smile.
- The childminder reflects regularly on her practice. She regularly reviews her resources, so that children have access to those which they prefer and enjoy spending the most time playing with. The childminder encourages children's love of books. She shares familiar and diverse stories with them to create experiences which help them understand the world around them.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder finds out about children's dietary requirements and allergies prior to her starting to care for them. This helps to keep children safe from harm. She has a good understanding of her role and responsibility to keep children safe. The childminder undertakes regular safeguarding training to keep her knowledge up to date. She is aware of the signs of possible abuse, and can confidently explain the procedure for reporting any concerns in line with local safeguarding procedures. This includes issues associated with neglect and county lines. The childminder is aware of what to do if an allegation is made against her or a member of her household.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen interactions with children, to extend their thinking skills and learning to an even higher level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	111275
Local authority	Hampshire
Inspection number	10264430
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 14
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	15
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1986 and lives in Eastleigh, Hampshire. She operates Monday to Sunday, from 6.30am to 7.30pm, all year round. The childminder accepts funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. The childminder holds a level 3 childcare qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Clare Leake

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 childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how she ensures that they remain safe and suitable.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about her intentions for children's learning.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, both indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector via written testimonials.

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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