

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 April 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 truly blossom in this fun and exciting setting. They are exceptionally happy and full of enthusiasm. Children feel safe and secure as they have remarkably close bonds with the childminder. Children show high levels of confidence as they approach the inspector to introduce themselves and share their experiences and achievements with pride.

The childminder offers a well-resourced and stimulating environment with an extremely wide range of resources. Children find pleasure in joining in physical activities in the spacious garden of the childminder, where they are able to have direct, hands-on experiences. During story time, the children actively engage by holding props and listening attentively, which helps to develop their listening skills and prepares them for the next stage in their education.

The childminder's curriculum is excellently ambitious for all children in her care, particularly those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The childminder is expert at weaving meaningful learning opportunities into all her activities and interactions with the children, ensuring that they complement and reinforce new ideas and concepts effectively. For instance, while exploring the butterfly life cycle, the childminder skilfully introduces new words, such as 'cocoon', sparks curiosity by reading a related storybook while distributing story props for children to engage with and facilitates a paper caterpillar activity.

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

- The childminder is highly effective in monitoring the children's learning and promptly takes appropriate actions to provide support to those with SEND. She skilfully plans engaging activities, sets achievable goals for the children and extends their learning. For example, when the children enjoy launching rockets into the sky in the garden, the childminder increases the level of difficulty by holding a hula hoop in the air for the children to aim their rockets through before launching them upward. This approach provides an exciting challenge for the children while enhancing their motor skills.
- Under the childminder's guidance, the children have become independent learners who perform a variety of tasks on their own. They put on and take off their shoes when transitioning from indoors to outdoors, retrieve their snack bags from the fridge and set them on the table at snack time. They wash their hands effectively and take responsibility for their self-care. Additionally, the childminder encourages children to complete tasks safely and successfully, such as cutting their fruit with child-friendly knives or pouring their drinks without spilling. This instils confidence in the children while promoting their independence.

- The childminder's thoughtful approach during group games sets a positive example for children and fosters a nurturing and inclusive environment. She is an exceptional role model, consistently exhibiting good manners and promoting turn-taking. The childminder employs effective strategies to foster high levels of respect and consideration for others, such as by introducing a sand timer. She empowers children to manage situations themselves, promoting their social skills.
- The childminder exposes children to a variety of experiences in the local community, including visits to nearby parks. By prioritising opportunities for exploration and discovery, the childminder encourages children to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.
- The childminder provides a stimulating environment that helps children develop key skills for their future education. She skilfully introduces mathematical concepts and terminology through interactive play. For instance, she prompts children to use words such as 'half' or 'quarter' when cutting fruit and encourages them to practise counting at every opportunity. Additionally, the childminder helps children develop their literacy skills by urging them to sound out letters in familiar words and pausing while reading stories to encourage them to fill in the missing words.
- Partnerships with parents are strong and highly effective. Parents speak highly of the childminder and say that she is extremely approachable, supportive, warm and dedicated. They express great satisfaction with the outstanding care their children receive and appreciate the stimulating environment the childminder provides. Furthermore, parents praise the childminder's commitment to meeting the individual needs of each child.
- The childminder is dedicated to her professional development, constantly expanding her knowledge and skills. She recently completed training to better support children's emotional development. The childminder leads a childminding group to exchange knowledge and ideas with other colleagues.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder is exceptionally knowledgeable about the warning signs and symptoms that can point to a child who is at risk. The childminder has very effective procedures in place to keep children safe. She has completed a wealth of safeguarding training and has excellent knowledge of child protection issues, including wider safeguarding concerns. To keep the children in her care safe, the childminder understands policies and procedures that she needs to abide by. The childminder supervises children very well and, her premises are clean and secure.

Setting details

Unique reference number	161919
Local authority	Wiltshire
Inspection number	10280716
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 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	4 September 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1998 and lives in Trowbridge. The childminder operates all year round from 7:30am to 6pm on Monday to Thursday. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification in childcare at level 3. She provides funded early education for children aged three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Stella Orfanidou

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 their evaluation of the provider.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about their intentions for children's learning.
- Children communicated with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children.
- The inspector took account of parents' written views about the childminder.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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