

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 May 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 very happy and settled in the childminder's care. They have a strong bond with her and enjoy snuggling up close to her for cuddles. Children also develop firm friendships with each other. The childminder provides opportunities for children to mix in a wider group by attending toddler groups and meeting with other local childminders. This helps to promote their social skills. Older children are very caring and considerate towards their younger peers. For instance, when children are upset, they approach them and offer kind and reassuring words.

The childminder provides a home-from-home setting where children can choose what to do and how to learn, indoors and outdoors. They freely access the garden and show a deep interest in planting and growing. For example, children are eager to show visitors the sunflowers that they have been growing and excitedly explain that they will soon be big and tall.

Children behave very well. They listen and respond positively to the childminder as she gently reinforces the house rules. Children are learning to resolve conflicts between themselves. The childminder is a good role model and offers children plenty of praise throughout the day. This helps to build on their confidence and self-esteem.

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

- The childminder knows the children well and recognises the different ways they learn. She plans an exciting curriculum that focuses on children's interests and next steps of learning. However, the childminder does not obtain information from parents about what children already know and can do when they first start, to enable her to quickly build on their existing knowledge.
- All children are eager to join in the activities on offer. They demonstrate positive attitudes to learning. Older children show their excitement as they compare the sizes of flowers when placing them on top of their 'sand mountain'. They confidently identify and sort them by size. This contributes to children's knowledge of mathematics.
- Children have many opportunities to go out and about. The childminder takes them on regular outings. She encourages children to exercise in the open spaces and explore their surroundings. Children enjoy picnics and feeding apples to the horses. These opportunities help children to develop an understanding of the wider world.
- The childminder provides a good range of opportunities for children to develop their small-muscle skills in readiness for early writing. For example, children select from a good range of writing materials and happily make marks on the paving stones.

- Children use their imagination and express themselves in many ways. For example, they select items at the play supermarket and tell visitors about the different foods they like. Younger children move their bodies to music. The childminder provides them with various musical instruments, which encourages them to be even more creative.
- Children enjoy looking at books and listening to the childminder as she reads to them. They snuggle in close and giggle with excitement as she changes her tones. The childminder allows children to complete sentences in the story and encourages them to recall parts of the story. This contributes to the children's love of reading.
- Parents speak highly of the childminder. They say that it is comforting to see their child's excitement as they arrive at her home. They comment that the childminder is very kind and fair when dealing with unwanted behaviour. Parents express that they are satisfied with the good level of communication that they receive from the childminder.
- Children have many opportunities to be independent. They confidently put on and remove their own shoes and place them on the mat. Older children support younger children to put their shoes away, which helps them to learn where things belong. Children confidently feed themselves, wipe their own hands and help to tidy away toys.
- The childminder is committed to providing good-quality care and learning experiences for children. She keeps mandatory training, such as paediatric first aid, up to date. The childminder carries out online research to build on her existing knowledge and has recently received training in relation to food intolerances. She uses this newly acquired knowledge to support children who currently attend.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder keeps her safeguarding knowledge up to date. She knows the signs and symptoms that indicate a child may be at risk of harm. The childminder knows the procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child's welfare. She closely supervises children and updates her suitability checks. The childminder carries out daily risk assessments of her home to help reduce hazards and minimise accidents. This helps her to promote children's safety and welfare to a high level. The childminder carries out regular fire evacuation drills with children.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- identify children's starting points in learning at the earliest opportunity, and use this information to build on their learning right from the start.

Setting details

Unique reference number	124876
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	10265119
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	4
Date of previous inspection	25 May 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1993 and lives in Coulsdon, in the London Borough of Croydon. She operates from Wednesday to Friday, all year round. The childminder provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children. She holds a recognised early years qualification at level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Louise Drewett

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 of the premises with the childminder, who explained how the areas of her home are used for childminding and spoke about the activities she provides to meet children's needs.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the curriculum is implemented and the impact that this has on children's learning.
- The inspector took account of parents' written views about the service they receive.

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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