

Childminder report

Inspection date: 16 October 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

The childminder provides a safe and welcoming environment for the children. All children, including those new to the provision, are settled and show that they feel secure in the childminder's care. The childminder provides a good range of activities for the children, which supports their individual learning needs and interests. Children have fun and enjoy their learning. For example, they use small toys to role play real-life experiences, such as making dinner and drinks and caring for the dolls.

Children are comfortable in the childminder's company and are building close friendships with each other. The childminder is a good communicator with the children, and she supports their developing language well. For example, she engages with the children consistently about what they are doing to help them hear a wide range of vocabulary. Children listen well and follow simple rules. This shows they have a positive attitude to learning. Children behave well. They receive plenty of praise from the childminder for their efforts and achievements, which, in turn, supports their self-confidence. Children are independent in their play, and they support each other when getting ready to go out. For instance, older children are seen to help the younger ones get their coats and shoes.

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

- The childminder offers a broad curriculum that challenges the children and helps them to make progress. She knows the children well, including those new to the provision. The childminder provides purposeful play opportunities for the children to revisit and consolidate their previous learning. For example, children who are learning to ride a bicycle benefit from support on their balancing skills as they explore the obstacle stepping stones.
- Children show that the childminder is important to them. They invite her into their play and, together, they have lots of fun jumping in puddles and making footprints from the water. Children show they are comfortable with the childminder as they drift to sleep peacefully in her care and snuggle up to her during story times. This shows the children feel safe and are well cared for in the childminder's home.
- The childminder helps children to develop their speaking and listening skills well through a consistent dialog. She is respectful of the children and offers inclusively as they take turns to choose a song that they would like to sing from the song bag. This helps them to recall songs they know and learn others. Children are excited as the songs are sang, and they join in with the actions associated with these.
- The childminder supports children's self-esteem and behaviour development well. For example, she gives children a good amount of praise and supports

good manners. Children have clearly formed good relationships and are seen at the inspection to play cooperatively with each other and hold hands.

- Mealtimes are social occasions where children sit together to eat. They enjoy the food that is offered by the childminder. Children learn the importance of washing their hands prior to eating through appropriate procedures. However, at times, the childminder does not consider the most hygienic ways to manage the mealtime routine.
- Partnerships with parents are good. The childminder ensures that the parents and children are warmly greeted at the door and that feedback is professional and friendly. The childminder has effective procedures in place to ensure that parents are fully informed about their children's development to support continuity of care.
- The childminder is a reflective practitioner. She regularly reviews what activities she is offering to the children to ensure that they remain interested and motivated within her care. She is dedicated to helping parents and has recently undertaken specific training in self-care to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The childminder is committed to keeping her practice up to date and undertakes regular research to deepen her knowledge and skills.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder is confident in her understanding of the importance to safeguard children. She maintains and follows the requirements for the adult-to-child ratio and ensures that she is well deployed to meet the needs and safety of the children. The family dog is calm and friendly and is welcomed warmly by the children when he comes out of his designated space. The childminder is confident in the signs and indicators that may mean a child is at risk and fully understands the procedures to follow in the event of a safeguarding concern.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- review hygiene practices to support the children's understanding, with particular regard to mealtimes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY303375
Local authority	Oxfordshire
Inspection number	10313426
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 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	20 March 2018

Information about this early years setting

This childminder registered in 2005 and lives in Didcot, Oxfordshire. She operates all year round, from 6.45am to 7pm. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Tracy Bartholomew

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 explained the curriculum during a learning walk with the inspector.
- The childminder and the inspector completed a joint observation of an activity together and discussed the quality of teaching and learning afterwards.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation, including evidence of the suitability of all those living in the household. She also sampled documentation, including evidence of paediatric first-aid training.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's self-evaluation processes and plans for improvement.

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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