

Childminder report

Inspection date: 30 March 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	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children feel safe, confident and motivated to learn in this passionate childminder's care. She provides an extremely warm and welcoming environment. This helps children to form strong bonds with her. The childminder provides a high level of support and feedback for parents. She values their input and invites them into the setting regularly. Parents report that the childminder 'feels like family'. They enthuse about the homely environment where 'children are genuinely cared for and nurtured'. They feel that their children are flourishing as a result of the childminder's care.

The childminder is extremely passionate about child-led learning. She has very high expectations of all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Children are very familiar with daily routines. They have a clear understanding of the childminder's expectations, which makes them feel safe. For example, after snack, they tidy their own things away, sorting rubbish into the correct bins. They clean up spills unprompted, knowing which colour cloth to select and where the child-friendly cleaning spray is kept. They dry the slide independently before using it, placing the used towel in the washing basket themselves. Children are highly engaged by the activities on offer, laughing and squealing with excitement during group activities. As a result, children make excellent progress across the curriculum.

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

- The childminder has an excellent knowledge of how children learn. She uses robust monitoring processes to look for any gaps in children's development. She intuitively knows when to adapt activities to extend and deepen children's learning. The childminder suggests activities that parents can do at home to extend their children's learning even further. This supports children to make excellent progress.
- The childminder plans a rich curriculum, such as regular trips to expose children to new places, activities and experiences. Children travel to the beach to look for creatures in rock pools, ride on the bus to museums and harvest vegetables and plant seeds at a local farm. The childminder teaches children about other religions and cultures. This enriches their education and understanding of the world around them.
- The childminder provides a wide range of activities to teach children how to keep themselves safe and healthy. Children develop excellent skills in assessing risks for themselves, such as learning how to safely balance on logs and climb trees in the woods. The childminder teaches children about the importance of having a balanced diet. She asks parents to involve their children in choosing healthy items for their lunch boxes. This helps children use the knowledge that

they have learned about healthy eating at home.

- The childminder enhances children's communication and language skills excellently. She skilfully adapts the way she talks to children to suit their preferred method of communication. She provides short, clear instructions and gives children time to process what she has said. She teaches children sign language and uses pictures to support those children who are not yet able to express themselves in words. She expertly introduces new words to enhance children's vocabulary as they play. This supports children to become excellent communicators.
- The childminder is extremely skilled at supporting children's ability to manage their own behaviour. She expertly uses positive praise when she captures children being good. This helps them to feel good about themselves. It also helps children understand the high standard of behaviour that the childminder expects. The childminder sensitively explains how unwanted behaviours impact others. She skilfully links this to how children are feeling. She empathises when children become frustrated or upset. This develops children's ability to understand their own and each other's emotions.
- The childminder strives to provide a rich environment where children are active learners. Children appear naturally motivated to challenge themselves. The childminder encourages children to think about what has made them feel proud of themselves every day. She shares this with parents and includes the children in these discussions. This supports children's levels of self-esteem exceptionally well.
- The childminder is extremely passionate about child development. She conscientiously pursues training opportunities to continually improve the quality of her practice. She is highly reflective and has an ambitious vision for the setting.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an in-depth understanding of safeguarding. She is fully aware of the signs to look out for that may indicate abuse. She knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder knows the procedure to follow should anyone make an allegation about a member of her household. She is also aware of other safeguarding issues, such as the risks associated with radicalisation and extreme views. The childminder takes action to identify, minimise or remove risk to keep children safe in her home and on trips. She teaches children safety routines so that they learn to risk assess for themselves.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY489395
Local authority	Somerset
Inspection number	10276741
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	12
Number of children on roll	14
Date of previous inspection	31 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2015 and lives in Bridgwater, Somerset. She works with another co-childminder and an assistant and is available to care for children Monday to Thursday, from 7am to 5pm, all year round. The childminder receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years. She holds a Master's-level qualification in education with Montessori.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Kate Rogers

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 provider.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how she ensures they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises their early years provision, including the aims and rationale for their early years foundation stage curriculum.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- 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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