



QUALITY ASSURANCE INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection date:	13.03.24	Previous Inspection Date:	N/A
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The quality and standards of the Early Years provision:	This Inspection:	Previous Inspection	
	Requires Improvement	N/A	
Quality of Education	Good	N/A	
Behaviour and Attitudes	Good	N/A	
Personal Development	Good	N/A	
Leadership and Management	Requires Improvement	N/A	

What is it like to attend this Early Years Setting?

Children are happy. They laugh and smile with their friends during lunch time and share events from home. Children talk about their past experiences and things that are important to them. The childminder and her assistant listen to children. They build on conversations, asking questions and sharing their own experiences too, helping children to feel valued.

The childminder provides settling in sessions for all families. During this time, she gathers useful information about children’s routines and interests. She does not complete essential paperwork with parents, to fully support children’s health. However, she uses the information about children’s interests to provide exciting learning experiences for children that sparks their curiosity. Therefore, most children settle quickly. The childminder focuses on building relationships and gives children comfort and reassurance when needed.

Parents are happy with the care their children receive at the setting. They praise the childminder and her assistant on their enthusiasm and communication. The childminder shares monthly progress reports that updates parents about what their children have learned and what they are learning next. Furthermore, she gives parents ideas on how to continue this learning at home and therefore, children benefit from consistency in their learning and make good progress.

What does the Early Years Setting do well, and what does it need to improve on?

The childminder does not gather enough information from parents to fully support children's health and therefore her leadership skills require improvement.

The childminder promotes preschool attendance and teaches children the skills they need to be confident learners in larger groups. This includes important language skills so that children can ask for help when they need it. Furthermore, she teaches important social skills, such as, being able to make new friends and talk to new people, along with sharing resources.

Children engage in activities of their choosing for extended periods of time. The childminder provides resources that spark children's interests and supports their engagement and positive attitude to learning. Children choose resources that interest them, such as the cars, and they use their imaginations to act out different scenarios and events. Children use small figures and give the characters voices. They also pretend to be dinosaurs and move in a range of ways around the setting, developing important gross motor skills and core strength.

The childminder has an outdoor area where she provides a range of activities to promote children's gross motor development. Children can choose from a range of ride on cars and balls. However, the childminder limits the access to outdoor equipment during the winter months. Therefore, children do not have access to a wide range of resources and learning opportunities at all times.

The childminder promotes positive behaviours by offering praise when children are kind and help each other. However, she does not consistently support children's understanding of the boundaries and expectations of the setting. Therefore, children do not always listen and follow her instructions.

The childminder tracks children's progress closely and identifies any delays in children's development. She seeks advice from outside agencies to support children and also plans meaningful activities to support gaps in children's development, helping them to make continued progress.

The childminder provides many opportunities for children to develop their language and communication skills. Children who speak English as an additional language make good progress. They begin to learn basic English words quickly and settle at the setting. Children build relationships with the childminder and her assistant, and this provides them with a safe environment where they can learn.

Safeguarding

The childminder and her assistant have a good knowledge of how to protect young children from harm. They understand the signs that may mean a child is at risk of abuse and know where to report their concerns if they need to. They keep all contact information for the local authority displayed at the setting. The childminder and her assistant attend regular safeguarding training to keep their knowledge up to date.

The childminder and her assistant understand their responsibility to report any allegations made against them to the local authorities designated officer and the Suffolk Childcare Agency.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- Complete all relevant paperwork with parents to fully support children's health and well-being within the setting.
- Make use of the garden all year round, to provide more learning opportunities so children make the best possible progress.
 - Provide clear and consistent expectations for all children to help them to understand what is expected of them

Inspection Activities

- The childminder talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want children to learn.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder's assistant at appropriate times.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The childminder and the inspector carried out a joint observation together and the childminder reflected on her practice.



Name of Childminder	Natalie Houghton
Registration Number	SCA170247
Type of Provision (CM at home/50% non-domestic premises)	Childminder
Registers (Early Years, Compulsory, Voluntary Childcare?)	All
Local Authority	Bedfordshire
Childminder Agency Inspector	Vikki Reynolds
Date of previous Inspection	N/A
Number of children on roll	9

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