

Inspection of Plunkett-Hall, Grace Louise

Oak Cottage Wolterton Hall, NORWICH NR11 7LY

Inspection date: 22 August 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Inadequate

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

The childminder provides a very well-resourced learning environment, which is rich in picture, text, and number. Care and learning takes place primarily outside and in a purpose-provided play cabin in the garden. The childminder and her assistants engage well with the children. As a result, children are settled and enjoy their time in the setting.

The childminder plans a range of activities linked to themes and topics. These capture children's interest and build on what they already know and can do. They confidently explore their surroundings and select activities of their choice. Children use their imagination well. They pretend to be archaeologists, collecting water in buckets and using tools to dig and excavate the soil. Other children practise early writing skills. They use chalk to draw roads, train tracks and traffic signs on the concrete, before manoeuvring their vehicles around the area. Even very young children are confident in taking risks, as they learn to negotiate the climbing frame and go down the slide.

Children know and follow daily routines. They know to ring the bell to let their friends know when it is snack time. Children are supported to be independent. They learn how to use the toilet, how to turn on the tap and how to wash and dry their hands. They practise putting on, and taking off, their shoes and boots. They know how to behave because the childminder and her assistants act as good role models and reward positive behaviour. Children are supported to share how they are feeling. They are kind and polite to each other, saying please and thank you.

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

- The childminder has made improvements since her last inspection. She has notified Ofsted of every person living or working on the premises so that the required suitability checks can be conducted. She ensures that assistants complete paediatric first-aid and safeguarding training prior to working with the children. At least one person with current paediatric first-aid training is always available. In addition, any driver who transports the children is appropriately insured to do this.
- The childminder is committed to continuous professional development. She accesses a range of training, to strengthen her skills and enable her to meet children's individual learning needs. The childminder understands how to deliver an effective curriculum and is implementing this successfully. She cares for up to 14 children at any one time. As a result, she works with at least one assistant each day. Some assistants have been recently recruited and inducted. The childminder has plans to ensure that assistants engage in continuous professional development and enhance their early years knowledge, but has not

yet implemented these plans.

- Daily routines, such as nappy changing and sleeping, are appropriately followed with the youngest children. Children show that they feel safe and secure in the childminder's care. They confidently seek her out for a cuddle, when they need reassurance. Meal and snack times are social occasions and children enjoy a plentiful range of freshly prepared, healthy food.
- The childminder provides a language-rich environment with opportunities for children to sing songs and learn rhymes. She models language effectively, speaking with clarity and allows children time to practise their speaking skills. Children are encouraged to learn new vocabulary and its meaning. The childminder introduces words such as 'sour', 'sticky' and 'squeeze', to help children learn, pronounce and remember more words.
- The childminder uses books, both factual and fiction, to engage the children and extend their learning. Children are developing a love of books. The childminder reads with enthusiasm, telling a story about a child taking an array of different fruits to her friend. She discusses the story and uses questioning effectively to maximise children's early literacy skills. The childminder then produces the same 'real' fruits, for the children touch, smell, and taste. Later, alongside a child, and using the internet, she finds what a 'star fruit' looks like and its country of origin.
- The childminder shares information about children's learning and routines with their parents. She does this via online application, through newsletters and verbally at the beginning and end of the day. Parents state that they are happy with the care and learning that their children receive. The childminder also gives parents ideas of how to support their children's learning at home. However, she has not yet developed effective links with early years settings where minded children also attend, in order to ensure that these children's transitions are smooth and their learning experiences are consistent.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- implement plans to support assistants to improve their knowledge and undertake professional development opportunities to further enhance the quality learning and development experiences for children
- engage effectively with other settings where minded children also receive their early education, to ensure that children's learning needs are consistently met.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2652458
Local authority	Norfolk
Inspection number	10340792
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	12
Number of children on roll	14
Name of registered person	Plunkett-Hall, Grace Louise
Telephone number	
Date of previous inspection	8 March 2024

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2021 and lives in a village close to the town of Aylsham, Norfolk. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The childminder works with assistants.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Dawn Pointer

Inspection activities

- The inspector considered any continued impact of the pandemic and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the childminder.
- The childminder showed the inspector the areas she uses for childminding, she explained the curriculum and how the provision is organised.
- The inspector observed a range of routines and activities, to help evaluate the quality of education and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector had discussions with the childminder and her assistants. She also spoke to the children, to help assess their experiences in the setting.
- The inspector sampled relevant documentation.
- Parents shared their views on the childminder's provision through discussions.

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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