

**Name: Kate Fountain**

**HCEY00021**

Address: 37 Farnsworth Grove, Nottinghamshire NG17 2AR

Inspection date 02/02/18

Publication date 20/02/18

Previous inspection Not applicable

The quality and standards of childminder's care and education	This inspection Previous inspection	Good Not applicable	Average points score
Organisation, welfare and personal development		<b>Good</b>	5
Curriculum, teaching and learning		<b>Good</b>	5
Professional standards and capacity to improve		<b>Good</b>	5
Early Years Foundation Stage requirements including safeguarding and child protection.		MET	

## Summary of key findings

### This childminder is good:

- Kate is well-qualified and experienced. She demonstrates her understanding and knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage through her interactions with children and planning of activities. Her qualification is having a positive impact on children's learning and development.
- Children are happy and soon settle at the childminders home. This is because Kate works hard to find out all she can about new families and offers flexible settling in sessions. This allows children time to settle in and, as a result, children build strong attachments to Kate.
- Partnerships with parents is very strong. Kate shares regular information with parents about their child's day and supports parents to continue their child's learning at home. Parents speak very highly of Kate and value her knowledge and experience.
- Children are learning to share, take turns and understand boundaries. Kate is a good role model; she encourages children to play cooperatively and offers firm but sensitive guidance about what is expected of them. For example, when children climb on the furniture she reminds them they could fall and that it is not for climbing. Children listen and soon get down.
- Kate has started to evaluate her provision and practice well. She observes children and identifies activities and experiences that work well or need adapting. She understands her strengths and weaknesses and has actions in place to address these. This means that children benefit from an environment that meets their needs and extends their development.

## The main areas for improvement are:

- Transitions within the routine, such as sleep time, is not organised well enough to meet the individual needs of all children.
- Although Kate ensures all mandatory training such as safeguarding and first aid is completed, she would benefit in completing training specific to the ages of children she cares for to raise the quality of her teaching to an outstanding level.

## To improve further the childminder should:

- Prepare and plan transitions within the day so that they are personalised to individual children and take account of non-sleeping children.
- Explore opportunities to undertake professional development that will enhance your already excellent knowledge and raise the quality of your teaching to an even higher level.

## About the Quality Appraisal Inspection visit

The Quality Appraisal Inspection visit was conducted by a Support, Advice and Mentor (SAM) from @Home Childcare Childminder Agency in line with A guide for childminder agencies<sup>(1)</sup>. The SAM reviewed all aspects of the childminder's setting to ensure they were meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework<sup>(2)</sup>. The quality of the childminder's practice was graded using aspects of the Environment Rating Scales<sup>(3)</sup>. A maximum score of 7 is available in each area of practice.

The inspecting SAM: **Carly Polak**

As part of the visit the SAM completed a range of activities including:

- Observing the quality of teaching during activities and assessing the impact this has on children's learning
- Discussing the childminder's practice at appropriate times throughout the visit
- Reviewing the children's assessment records, observations and planning on EYLOG
- Viewing the areas of the house used for childminding and reviewing a selection of policies
- Collecting the views of parents from surveys, the childminder's own questionnaires and any spoken to on the day
- Discussing the childminder's self-evaluation and plans for improvement

(1) *A guide for childminder agencies (July 2016) Department for Education*

(2) *Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (April 2017) Department for Education*

(3) *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer and Clifford); Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (Harms, Cryer and Clifford); ECERS –E (Curricular Extension) (Sylva, Siraj-Blatchford and Taggart); Assessing quality in early childhood education and care, Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being Scale (Siraj, Kingston and Melhuish)*

## Inspection findings

### **Organisation, welfare and personal development is good.**

Kate organises her home for children to explore freely. She completes daily safety checks and has risk assessments in place to ensure children are playing in a safe and secure environment. She has a good understanding of her safeguarding responsibilities and can discuss in detail the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. Kate understands fully the procedures to take should she be concerned about a child's welfare. This means children's welfare and safety is prioritised. Children are settled, and Kate provides a real home from home experience. For example, children sit round the table enjoying breakfast together alongside the childminder. Children are confident within the setting, happily exploring the low-down storage boxes. They will seek out Kate when they need some support. For example, if they cannot manage to get all the cars out of the box. Kate offers lots of encouragement, guidance and support. She gets involved in children's play and boosts their self-esteem. As a result, even the youngest of children are willing to have a go and keep trying. Kate role- models good hygiene routines well, she wipes down tables ready for painting activities, washes her hands regularly and sterilises the changing mat after each use. This will help children to start to develop an understanding of hygiene routines and self-care.

### **Curriculum, teaching and learning is good.**

Kate observes children as they play, identifying their interests and stage of development. She then uses this information to inform assessments and set children appropriate next steps in their learning. Children are motivated, challenged and enthusiastic learners. Kate uses her wealth of experience to adapt activities to suit all children needs. For example, she creates a painting activity with frozen sensory 'paint'. This allows the youngest child to participate and explore using all his senses and older children to make purposeful marks and develop their hand muscles. Kate supports children's communication and language development well. She provides a running commentary for younger children, asks open ended questions to encourage children to think and is skilful with her timing. She knows when to step in and extend children's vocabulary and when to sit back and watch. Kate has a great understanding of how to support children with English as an additional language. She discusses how she gathers information about key words with parents and uses lots of visual clues and photographs. This helps to develop children's spoken language and helps to narrow any gaps that might occur in communication and language.

### **Professional standards and capacity to improve is good.**

Kate is a dedicated and passionate early years professional. She networks with other childminders and seeks out support when it is needed. She understands the importance of self-reflection, evaluating herself and her setting to ensure children receive the best quality care and education she can provide. Kate does attend training to ensure all welfare requirements are met and she is organised in her approach to this. Moving forward she should take advantage of training delivered by the agency and seek out other opportunities that would help her to ensure she is continually up to date with changes to best practice. This would help her to accelerate children's progress and improve their outcomes.

## Childminder's details

This childminder is registered with @Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA00017

Registration number HCEY00021

Local authority Nottinghamshire

Registers EYR, CCR,VCR

The childminder was registered in 2017 and lives in Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire. The childminder operates 5 days a week all year round except family holidays and bank holidays.