

Name: Leanne Bradford HCEY00032

Address: 11 Oxbow Close, The Meadows, Nottingham NG2 2NN

Inspection date 12/01/2018

Publication date: 26/02/2018

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		Good	5
Curriculum, teaching and learning		Good	5
Professional standards and capacity to improve		Good	5
Early Years Foundation Stage requirements including safeguarding and child protection.		MET	

Summary of key findings

This childminder is good:

- Leanne is well-qualified and experienced childminder who demonstrates a good understanding of the areas of learning and development. As a result, activities are well matched to children's capabilities.
- Children are happy and have formed strong attachments to Leanne. When they arrive they are greeted warmly and soon settle in the childminders home. Leanne offers flexible settling in sessions and takes the time to get to know the children and families. This helps Leanne form trusting relationships with the parents and children who build strong attachments with her.
- Leanne has worked hard to form professional relationships with the parents. She gathers in-depth information from the start, and continues to communicate information regularly to build on what children can already do to help parents extend this further at home. Children benefit from this shared approach both emotionally and developmentally.
- The environment is homely, and Leanne is naturally calming. Children are relaxed, behave well and are making good progress in this 'home from home' setting. They are supported well to lead healthy lifestyles. For example, Leanne cooks home cooked meals daily and helps children to start to understand the importance of hygiene routines as she encourages them to wash hands after toileting.

- Leanne has started to evaluate her setting well and has a clear action plans in place to help drive her setting forward. For example, she has proactively put plans in place to allow her to work alongside her husband as co-minder so that she can build on the business and quality of care offered. She has ensured parents are well-informed about this and that all relevant training is completed. She has set high standards from the beginning.

The main areas for improvement are:

- Although Leanne knows the children well, she does not always focus precisely enough on supporting their next steps in learning
- Leanne's knowledge and understanding of diversity is not in any way reflected in the resources or activities provided

To improve further the childminder should:

- Use what you know about children and the areas of learning to regularly track children's development and create specific next steps to help accelerate their progress
- Develop activities and resources to help children gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between themselves and within the community.

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⁽¹⁾. 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⁽²⁾. The quality of the childminder's practice was graded using aspects of the Environment Rating Scales⁽³⁾. 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.

Leanne provides a warm, welcoming and homely environment. Children comment on the smell of dinner and talk about what they would like for lunch. They share meal times around a table altogether. This allows children to develop their communication skills as they 'chat' to one another and learn important social skills such as, using manners. Children feel at home in Leanne's setting and as a result, they are confident to try new activities, explore the environment freely and make their own decisions. Children have their self-esteem and confidence boosted as Leanne offers lots of praise and encouragement. They are safeguarded well as she completes daily safety checks and ensures the home is safe and secure. Leanne has a robust understanding of her safeguarding responsibilities and knows what to do if she was concerned about a child. Children's safety and welfare is paramount.

Curriculum, teaching and learning is good.

Leanne has a good understanding about how children learn. She provides lots of learning opportunities through play and first-hand experiences. For example, children learn about living things and how to care for them as they brush and play alongside the pet dog. They love taking him for walks and would sit stroking him all day long, should they be allowed. Older children are well-prepared for school as Leanne helps them to develop important skills. They enjoy a matching game where they learn about sharing, turn taking, develop their memory and listening and attention skills. The environment although homely, contains low down storage areas to help children chose what they want to play with. This further encourages independence skills and allows Leanne to build on their interests. Leanne has a good understanding of the different aged children and is good at adapting her teaching skills to support each child. An example of this occurred during a box modelling activity. Leanne understood that younger children had a natural tendency to experiment and use their senses to discover sticking with glue, while older children enjoyed using their imaginations to make things.

Professional standards and capacity to improve is good.

Leanne is a dedicated childminder and she is ambitious. She has built up a network of early years professionals from past experiences and also from being a childminder. This helps her to update her knowledge and keep abreast with any changes in legislation. She has started to evaluate herself but would benefit from gaining the views of parents more and using a tool to self evaluate. This would help her to identify any areas in need of improvement quicker. Leanne does attend some training and ensures mandatory training is always updated such as first aid. Leanne is planning to grow her business by working alongside her partner as a co-minder. She is using this opportunity to help her develop her business, extend what she can offer and aims to improve the outcomes for children

Childminder's details

This childminder is registered with @Home Childcare Childminder Agency CA00017

Registration number HCEY00032

Local authority Nottinghamshire

Registers EYR, CCR, VCR

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