

Inspection date	25/01/2013
Previous inspection date	02/12/2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	2
	Previous inspection:	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		2

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision is good

- The excellent range of resources very effectively extends children's enjoyment as well as promoting their learning and development.
- The childminder's warm, friendly manner and good humour helps children to feel secure and promotes their social skills.
- Children progress well in all areas of their learning and development. This can be attributed to the childminder having a good understanding of how children learn, high expectations for their progress and her providing a good level of support in their play.
- Children enjoy a lot of interesting outings and are developing a good understanding of their local community.
- The childminder promotes children's health well by teaching them about the importance of adopting good personal care skills.

It is not yet outstanding because

- The childminder's arrangements to communicate with other early years settings attended by the children are not highly effective in all cases.
- The childminder does not always use the views of parents effectively to help in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses in the provision.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are scheduled:

- at least once in every inspection cycle. The current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged as inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage; or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised for inspection where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- Discussion took place with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The interaction of the childminder and children was observed during activities and snack times.
- All areas of the premises used for childminding were inspected.
- Documentation was sampled, including children's records and information regarding health and safety.
- 'Thank you' cards and references from parents were viewed.

Inspector

Liz Caluori

Full Report

Information about the setting

The childminder registered in 2000. She lives with her adult child in Westgate-on-Sea, Kent. There are two dedicated playrooms on the ground floor that are used for childminding, with an adjoining toilet. There is also another room available for messy play, mealtimes and office work. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. There are currently 10 children aged under eight years on roll, all attending on a part-time basis throughout the week. Of these, seven are in the early years age group. The childminder sometimes works with an assistant.

The childminder runs and attends several local parent and toddler groups. The family has dogs, cats, guinea-pigs, a rabbit, birds of prey and a snake.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve arrangements to liaise with other early years settings attended by the children to support all parties to provide more consistent and coordinated care
- provide encouragement for parents to further contribute their views on the childminding service to help identify strengths, prioritise areas for improvement and to shape practices.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The childminder has a very good understanding of the way that children learn. She demonstrates a detailed knowledge of the individual developmental abilities of each child in her care, as well as the activities which they particularly enjoy. She plans very effectively to reflect children's interests and to offer a good level of challenge. As a result, children progress well in all areas of their learning. They chat happily and expressively as they play, using their rapidly developing vocabularies to share their views, ask questions and discuss their games.

Regular outdoor play and use of local facilities such as soft play centres promote children's physical development well. Frequent local walks and outings also encourage children to exercise and have the added benefit of helping them to learn about their community. Children are extremely proficient in the use of technology, confidently using the tablet computers provided to operate a large range of programs. Computer games featuring young children's favourite characters encourage them to explore numbers, colours and develop skills such as matching identical pairs.

The childminder effectively assesses children's development through observations of their play and discussions with their parents. Her thorough understanding of each child's abilities enables her to identify any gaps in their progress and to plan specifically to address these. She has also begun the process of completing two year progress checks for children of that age.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children

Children thoroughly enjoy being with the childminder and spend much of their time laughing and sharing good humoured banter. They are friendly, polite and well mannered. Children form warm, trusting bonds with the childminder which helps them feel secure. Similarly, they develop good self-esteem as a result of the praise and encouragement they receive. Children are confident to try new activities and to make choices and decisions. This helps them to develop independent learning skills which prepare them well for their transitions to school.

Children's play and learning is significantly enhanced by the wonderful range of resources available to them. For example, they enjoy complex and imaginative games using the vast array of role play resources. They also make good use of the specialist black out tent to experiment with light by using torches.

The childminder meets children's health and care needs well. For example, she supports them sensitively in their toilet training and emphasises the importance of washing their hands. Parents currently choose to send in lunches from home. The childminder offers additional nutritious snacks and drinks, planned to reflect children's individual dietary requirements.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has an impressive knowledge of children's development and promotes their learning and development effectively. She has a good understanding of her strengths and the areas of her practice that she would like to improve. The childminder's commitment to ongoing improvement is evident as she has booked on a number of forthcoming training courses. She is also reviewing her recording systems to support her to monitor the success of her educational programmes more easily. The childminder takes note of any comments and suggestions made by parents but she does not routinely encourage them to have an active role in shaping the childminding practice.

The childminder values the friendly, positive relationships she maintains with parents. She understands that this helps children to settle easily and promotes consistency of care. The childminder also recognises the importance of working in partnership with any other

professionals working with the children in her care. However, her efforts to communicate with other early years provisions attended by children have not all been successful. Therefore, for some children, the childminder is not able to share a full range of information about their progress with the other practitioners to enhance consistency of care and learning.

Children's safety is effectively prioritised as the childminder fully recognises her responsibility to promote their welfare. She knows the procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child's well-being. A range of appropriate safety precautions are implemented, based on potential hazards identified during regular risk assessments. The children's play environment is well maintained and organised to help ensure that children are able to play safely.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are **Met**

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	Satisfactory provision is performing less well than expectations in one or more of the key areas. It requires improvement in order to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be inspected again within 12 months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement

	is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not Met	The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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.

Setting details

Unique reference number	125713
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	893300
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	02/12/2011
Telephone number	

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance 'raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted', which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you would like Ofsted to send you a copy of the guidance, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises that are usually their own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 4234, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may copy all or parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes, as long as you give details of the source and date of publication and do not alter the information in any way.

To receive regular email alerts about new publications, including survey reports and school inspection reports, please visit our website and go to 'Subscribe'.

Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 4234
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.ofsted.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2012

