

Inspection date	23/01/2014
Previous inspection date	24/10/2008

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 childminder is enthusiastic, friendly and welcoming, building tender relationships with the youngest children. Her nurturing approach helps children to feel emotionally secure forming close bonds, which fully supports their emotional well-being.
- The childminder has a clear understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, ensuring children are cared for in a safe and secure environment.
- Parents speak very highly of the childminder and the care and attention their children receive. There are effective partnerships in place that help children to make good progress.

It is not yet outstanding because

- There are few opportunities for children to explore natural resources to develop their senses and extend their imaginative play.

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
- scheduled more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged 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 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
- scheduled 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

- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times while observing the children's play and learning.
- The inspector sampled all available documentation which included policies, learning journals, activity planning, registers and accident and administration of medicine records.
- The inspector took account of parents' views from written comments and testimonials. These show that parents are fully informed of their children's progress on a regular basis.
- The inspector discussed risk assessments with the childminder.
- The inspector listened to the children, when viewing their learning journals, explaining what they were doing and learning in the photographs.

Inspector

Bernadette Gibbs

Full report

Information about the setting

The childminder has been registered since 1988. She lives with her husband, who works as her childminding assistant, in a residential area of Herne Bay, Kent. The house is situated within walking distance of shops, schools and a park. The whole of the ground floor and a first floor bedroom of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. At present the childminder cares for 9 children, all of whom are in the Early Years age group, they attend for a variety of sessions. The childminder is a member of the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years, she has a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in childcare and education at level 3.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide a variety of natural resources to enable children to use greater imagination in their play with open ended objects.

Inspection judgements

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

The childminder is effective in meeting the needs of the children in her care. She has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements and the quality of her teaching is good. Clear starting points and current abilities are established for each child so that activities and resources can be planned to make sure each child progresses well in their learning.

There is a strong emphasis on the three prime areas of learning; communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. This helps to build a sound foundation for development of the other areas of learning. For example, children capture their footprints using bare feet and paint, supporting creative development. They are able to measure and compare the size of their feet with others supporting mathematical development, for example.

Children play together happily with a selection of toys or activities, most of these are made of plastic with little natural material play resources, however. Babies have plenty of floor space for 'tummy time', strengthening their muscles as they stretch out to reach toys and begin to push themselves up to a crawling position. This promotes their physical development. The childminder and her assistant maintain eye contact with babies, talking

to them to praise and encourage these achievements.

Older children easily help themselves to resources stored in clear boxes set out around the room. They share a large low level table playing together, without squabbles, with 'Duplo' construction blocks and farm yard animals. This promotes their physical development, hand to eye co-ordination and they also use imagination as they act out a story with the animals. They also spend time together at the dining table cutting, gluing, sticking and drawing with a variety of resources that extend their creativity. The childminder reads a favourite story such as 'Five little ducks' with the children using ducks they have just made. The children take turns to take the ducks away and join in with the story telling. This raises their self-esteem and introduces the children to numbers.

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

The childminder knows the children she minds very well and provides them with a homely, calm and very caring environment. The settling-in process is flexible to meet the individual needs of each child and their families. During this time the childminder gains first-hand experience of each child's needs and completes an initial profile giving her clear starting points to progress children's learning. Children are given one to one time with either the childminder or her assistant throughout the day. This helps the children to form secure emotional attachments with the adults that care for them. The childminder encourages the children to be independent, putting on their own coats and shoes or boots to play outdoors or when going to the toilet. Younger children are supported well through established routines for milk and meal times and sleep time, ensuring their needs are met.

The childminder gives the children clear boundaries and explanations to help them learn what is expected and to understand what good behaviour means. Apart from the babies, all children are involved in tidying toys away after use. Children receive gentle reminders from the childminder to say 'please' and 'thank you'. Her approach is calm and reassuring as she praises and offers encouragement to the children as they play, developing their confidence and self-esteem.

Using information about children's recorded dietary requirements, the childminder provides healthy snacks and meals which includes a choice of fresh fruit. Children have access to their individual drinking cups and confidently ask for them to be refilled. Children play outdoors in all weathers enjoying plenty of exercise and fresh air, supporting their physical development. Relationships with the local pre-school are good as the childminder works with them to complete a 'shared care' form and by talking with the children's key person at collection time.

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

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She attends regular training for

safeguarding with the local authority. This along with clear a written policy means she is clear of the procedures to follow should she have concerns about the welfare of children in her care. Parents are made aware of all policies and procedures as they are given a full policy pack when their children start and receive any updates as they happen. The childminder's home is secure and the identity of visitors is checked. Emergency evacuations are practised regularly, including evacuation from the garden. These measures keep children safe from harm. Children are cared for on the ground floor with easy access to the garden which would be suitable for those with reduced mobility or using a wheelchair.

The childminder keeps her first aid training and qualification up to date; all accidents are recorded and reported to parents via an accident book. This means the childminder is capable to deal with any minor injuries. Good procedures are in place to record the administration of medicines, with parents completing a request slip daily if medicines are required. These slips are kept in a book where the childminder records the administration and parents are required to sign this to acknowledge the medicine has been given. This supports children's health and well-being. Parental consents are in place for emergency treatment, so that treatment is not delayed.

The childminder demonstrates a secure knowledge of how children learn. This enables her to plan a programme of activities and learning to help children make good progress across all areas of learning, meeting the learning requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Observations and assessment of children's learning is effectively used to plan future activities to extend children's learning. This is also used to inform the regular development reports provided to parents and to which they contribute. The childminder also completes the progress check for children age two years, meeting statutory requirements.

The childminder has used the self-evaluation process to good effect to identify and improve areas of her practice, particularly in respect of the planning and monitoring of children's progress and learning. These show an accurate reflection of children's skills and abilities. Parent's viewpoints are sought and acted upon. Partnership with parents is particularly strong, they are fully informed of the progress children are making in their development and are encouraged to contribute to their children's learning journals. Relationships with other settings children attend are well established with a strong emphasis on sharing information to support children's all round development and prepare them well for school.

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	Requires improvement	The provision is not giving children a good standard of early years education and/or there are minor breaches of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be monitored and inspected within twelve months of the date of this inspection.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement action. 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 monitored and inspected again within six 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	125266
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	813676
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	9
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	24/10/2008
Telephone number	

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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, which are usually the childminder's 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.

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