

Inspection date	21 January 2015
Previous inspection date	5 February 2009

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The children have warm attachments with the nurturing childminder; this helps them to form a strong bond and settle well.
- The childminder plans challenging and interesting activities to support children to make good progress in their learning.
- The childminder makes good observations and assessments of children's development and identifies children's next steps in learning effectively.
- The childminder has formed positive relationships with parents; she provides them with detailed information about their child's activities and achievements with her.
- The childminder introduces new vocabulary and reinforces words with actions, to extend children's communication and language development.
- The childminder has robust procedures in place to keep children safe and secure while in her care.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not provide children with as many opportunities to explore textures to engage their senses while in the garden.
- The childminder does not always provide children with equipment to encourage their early writing skills in their daily play activities.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the environment and extend the resources to enable children to practise their early writing skills in daily play activities
- enhance the outdoor environment so children can explore and investigate using their senses.

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed risk assessments with the childminder and inspected all areas of the premises.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times and made observations of children's play and learning in the home.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder various aspects of children's care, and the childminder's understanding of how children learn and develop.
- The inspector looked at the development files the childminder has created for each child and her planning of activities.
- The inspector observed the daily routine and discussed the organisation and management of the childminding service with the childminder.

Inspector
Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The childminder carries out detailed observations, which she evaluates to identify the children's next stages of learning. Through focused planning, the childminder provides the children with good quality play opportunities. The childminder updates parents about their child's achievements and completes the required progress check for children aged two years. The children enjoyed an activity to investigate different lenses; they confidently talked about what they saw. The childminder skilfully questioned and praised them as they predicted outcomes. However, opportunities to record findings to develop the children's early writing skills are less abundant. The childminder makes effective use of the children's favourite stories to incorporate mathematic; she helps them to identify shapes and count the characters. The childminder enables the children to expand their vocabulary using repetition and the introduction to new words. Therefore, the children are making good progress, particularly with their communication and language skills and mathematical development.

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

The children are content and happy in the childminder's care. They settle quickly due to the engaging environment the childminder provides for them. The childminder talks to the children about why they need to eat healthy foods, and provides them with a variety, which meets their individual dietary needs. She ensures that the children have daily opportunities to play in the fresh air, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. However, tactile activities to stimulate the children's senses are limited in the garden area. The children benefit from trips to the parks to meet with friends; this helps the children to develop socially and gain a good awareness of their local community. The childminder has clear rules and boundaries to help children learn about keeping themselves safe. She is a good role model, encouraging and teaching children how to share and take turns; consequently they are kind and behave very well.

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

The childminder confidently meets safeguarding and learning requirements. She provides close supervision and monitors the children constantly to keep them safe. The childminder has a good knowledge of how children learn, and embeds challenges for their next stage in learning into daily routines and planned activities. The childminder keeps parents up to date with events and care routines, either through daily chats or with the effective use of home contact books. Parents' comments are all positive. The childminder has a strong focus on professional development. She attends training and has close links with other childminders in the area; this supports her with updating her own practice. The childminder works with other professionals to provide continuity of care for all children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY236425
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	832875
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	5 February 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2002. She lives with her family in Sittingbourne, Kent. The family has a cat. The Childminder operates Monday to Friday from 7am to 6pm all year round. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to drop off and collect children. She attends local parent and toddler groups and receives support from the local authority.

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