

Inspection date

23 January 2015

Previous inspection date

17 December 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 childminder clearly understands her responsibility to meet the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She is very aware of her role in helping to keep children safe.
- Children have warm attachments with the caring childminder; this helps them to develop a strong bond and settle well.
- The childminder has formed positive relationships with parents, providing them with detailed information about their child's time with her.
- The childminder provides a varied range of good quality toys and resources, which are easily available for children to make their own choices about their play.
- The childminder plans a range of experiences for children to participate in and makes good use of the outdoors and the neighbouring environments. This enables children to develop a healthy lifestyle and learn about the world and local community they live in.
- The childminder effectively monitors children's on-going progress, enabling her to identify and plan for children's next steps in their learning.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder has not established fully effective partnerships with other providers delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage, to support consistency in children's learning.
- The childminder does not always provide opportunities for children to practise their early writing skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to further explores ways of working with other providers to improve partnership working with other early years professionals
- further develop the opportunities children have to explore mark making opportunities in all play activities, to support their early writing skills.

Inspection activities

- The majority of inspection time was spent with the childminder observing her and the children she was caring for.
- 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 areas of the home used by children in relation to their health and safety.
- The inspector looked at the development files the childminder creates for each child and her planning of activities.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she supports her assistant.

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 focuses on providing the children with a variety of resources, which interest and appeal to them. She encourages the children to take ownership of their environment. All children are learning how to respond to each other. This prepares them for the next stage in learning by developing sharing and turn taking skills. The children excitedly investigated the bugs together, while the childminder found a book to help identify them. Therefore, children learn about the world around them. The childminder reads children's favourite books to them and actively encourages them to predict what will happen next. This develops their communication, language and literacy skills. However, the childminder does not always provide a wide range of resources to encourage children to draw symbols in their daily play activities. This does not fully enhance children's early writing skills. The childminder frequently observes the children and accurately evaluates these observations to track the children's progress. This enables her to plan interesting activities based on the children next steps and interests. The childminder shares information with parents regularly to provide a consistency of care.

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

The childminder provides the children with a welcoming, warm home environment where they can freely explore. All children develop their confidence and self-esteem as they independently access resources and investigate their immediate environment. Children have daily opportunities to be out in the fresh air. They benefit from regular outings around the local community to enhance their learning experiences. Mealtimes are a social occasion, the childminder teaches the children about the importance of a healthy diet and the children are beginning to learn about a healthy lifestyle. Children behave well and are kind to friends. Older children comfort babies when they become upset and find them toys to play with. Therefore, they learn how to look after others and develop their social skills.

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

The childminder demonstrates that safeguarding children is a priority and she understands the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She ensures that her assistant keeps up to date, by reading and following the settings policies and procedures. The childminder closely supervises children to keep them safe. She constantly risk assesses the environment. For example, she quickly removes a rug which has become a trip hazard, to guarantee that children are safe. The childminder has positive relationships with parents who are 'very happy with the service they receive'. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to improving practice and attends training. She cascades this information to her assistant. Links with other professionals does not always provide all children and families with a continuity of care.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY307933
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	834237
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	17 December 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2005. She lives with her family in Sholden, near Deal, Kent. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has pets. The childminder works with her husband who is a registered assistant. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She has five children on roll in the early years age range. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to drop off and collect children.

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