

Inspection date	23 January 2015
Previous inspection date	Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Good Not applicable	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 interacts with the children and shows she knows them well.
- There is a variety of accessible toys and resources, which children can choose from.
- The childminder works well with parents and they are happy with the care and learning their children receive.
- Fresh food, drinks and snacks are provided for children to enjoy and they benefit from the balanced and nutritious menu available.
- The childminder keeps the required records, which are well maintained.
- The childminder displays a good awareness of how to keep children safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Role-play activities and resources are not routinely provided for children to act out everyday scenarios.
- Many of the toys are made of plastic; there are few natural or recycled resources to help children learn more about their environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review the variety of role-play resources available to enable children to act out more everyday scenes to build their imaginations and extend their creativity
- review the benefits of providing children with more natural and environmentally-friendly resources, such as those that are recycled or made out of wood, to enhance their understanding of the world.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked with the childminder.
- The inspector observed children.
- The inspector sampled various records and documentation.
- The inspector feedback to the childminder.

Inspector

Mary Vandeppeer

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a good range of activities to help promote children's development in all areas of learning. She provides a variety of resources, which she stores in a child-friendly way so that they are easily accessible, including for the very young children. This enables them to make choices about their play. However, many of the resources are made of plastic, with few natural or recycled ones to help children learn about their environment. Children's independence is promoted well. The childminder spends a lot of time with the children, playing with them and guiding them in their speaking and listening skills. The childminder reads to the children and books are readily available for them to explore alone. Simple construction activities help the young children build their own creations, enabling them to learn to count or recognise shapes and colours. Small-world play figures and resources give children a chance to use their imagination, although role-play resources are not always readily available to help children to re-enact their family experiences, for example. The childminder exchanges information about children's achievements and their day with parents regularly, helping to promote consistency in their learning and development.

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

The childminder greets children warmly and makes them feel valued. She shows genuine interest in what they say and do. This means they can develop confidence and self-esteem. The childminder ensures her home is safe and secure for children. There is a good amount of free space for children to play in, and learn to crawl and walk. The children can play outdoors regularly, including visits to local parks. The childminder gives children's well-being and welfare good attention. She encourages children to respect others and to play well together, sharing and helping each other. This promotes their personal, social and emotional development well. Children are being well prepared for the move to nursery or school.

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

The childminder works alongside a co-childminder and in some areas, they lead and manage the minding service together. There is clearly a positive commitment to continuing good partnerships with parents and other professional childcare workers. The childminder regularly risk assesses the environments children use to ensure they are free from hazards and safe. There is a suitable self-evaluation process, where the childminder assesses what she needs to change and improve, for example attending further training and updating resources and activities. The childminder uses an appropriate planning and assessment system to help monitor how children are progressing in their learning and development and show where extra support may be needed.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY441279
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	887485
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2011. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, and their young family in Gravesend, Kent. Children have access to the whole of the ground floor of the home and supervised access to the first floor bathroom. A first floor bedroom is also used for additional play activities or sleeping. There is a garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. Overnight care can be offered for one child under eight years.

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