

Inspection date	5 February 2015
Previous inspection date	29 June 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 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 is a good role model, she talks to the children and babies to support them with developing good language and communication skills.
- The childminder provides the children with a safe and secure environment. She carries out comprehensive risk assessments, minimising hazards in order to protect children.
- Partnerships with parents are strong due to the regular exchange of information both verbal and in writing.
- The childminder effectively monitors children's progress. She has a very good knowledge of the children's interests and stages of development, which she uses to plan challenging activities.
- The childminder understands the importance of providing children with daily opportunities to exercise in the fresh air. She makes good use of local parks to support the children's physical development.
- The childminder provides the children with a warm and caring environment where they settle well and are actively engaged in their play.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The children have fewer opportunities to play with natural resources, to extend their learning about the world around them.
- The childminder does not have strong links with other settings the children attend to enable information sharing to promote continuity in children's care and learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop opportunities for children to explore and experiment using a good range of natural materials
- develop ways of working with other providers when children attend additional early years settings, to promote consistency in children's care and learning.

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at children's learning journeys, including assessment documents and children's next steps in their learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder about her evaluation of the provision.
- The inspector discussed risk assessments with the childminder and inspected the premises.
- 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 took account of the views of parents through discussions with the childminder and reading parent questionnaires.

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 supports children's learning and development by providing them with a stimulating environment, where they are able to access resources independently. However, they have fewer natural resources to stimulate their senses. The childminder encouraged the children to interact with friends. They played board games, taking turns with the dice before helping with counting and moving the counters. The childminder effectively incorporates mathematical language and concepts into the children's play. She is very clear about how she supports children to enable them to make good progress. For example, she repeats words correctly and models simple sentences as she helps develop young children's speech. She recognises that singing a child's favourite rhyme encourages them to join in, developing their use of language. The childminder makes good use of books to further extend children's interest in literacy and learn that words have meaning. The childminder helps children develop skills ready for the next stage in their learning and school.

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

The childminder has formed close caring relationships with the children; this helps them settle well. She regularly talks to parents, so she can continue to meet young children's routines and care needs. The childminder is effective in helping children develop their independence skills. For example, she encourages them to pull the lid off their yogurt pot themselves. The childminder acknowledges and praises children for their achievements. This promotes their self-esteem and helps them to feel valued and respected. She has clear expectations of behaviour and children know to be kind to their friends. They look after the environment by putting toys away so they do not stand on them.

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

The childminder has a well-developed and thorough understanding of safeguarding issues and is clear about the procedures to follow to protect children in her care. She works well with parents to meet children's individual needs and consistently shares information about their routine and learning. However, the childminder does not routinely share information with other professionals to provide all children with continuity in their care and learning. The childminder obtains the views of parents through questionnaires and regular discussion to help her evaluate her childminding service. Comments made by parents indicate that they are more than happy with the care their children receive. The childminder attends training courses to update her knowledge and skills, for example supporting children's language development.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY310904
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	834314
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	29 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two school-aged children, in Snodland, Kent. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for three- and four-year-old children. The childminder operates Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm all year round.

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