

Inspection date	6 March 2015
Previous inspection date	20 September 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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 and her assistant have strong bonds with the children because they give them lots of attention and one-to-one care.
- The childminder undertakes progress checks on children's learning and development. She provides a wide range of good-quality toys and activities to help children learn and develop in all areas of learning.
- Children behave well with the childminder and her assistant because they use consistent messages to teach children to share toys and show concern for each other.
- Children receive nutritious food at snack and mealtimes. They talk about which foods are good for them to eat and learn about the effects of physical play on their bodies.
- The childminder has good partnership working with parents. She discusses their children with them at the end of each day to provide news of their children's achievements.
- The childminder and her assistant understand their roles and responsibilities when caring for children. They maintain paperwork well and are robust in vetting visitors to the setting. The childminder supervises her assistant effectively to help to ensure she understands, and is meeting, the early years requirements.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Although older children practise the childminder's emergency evacuation procedures, the younger children have fewer opportunities to learn about keeping themselves safe during emergencies.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for the youngest children to learn about keeping themselves safe in emergencies.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled a variety of paperwork including the childminder's safeguarding policy, risk assessments and fire record book.
- The inspector talked to the assistant, the children and took account of parent's written references to gain their views of the setting.
- The inspector observed the good interaction between the adults and the children as they played.

Inspector

Linda Coccia

Inspection findings

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

The children enjoy their time with the childminder. They are able to choose from a wide range of toys and activities which interest them. For example, they use role play to investigate the world, such as buying items in the play shop and pretending to go to school. The childminder uses good strategies to help children to be ready for the move to other settings and school. She helps them learn to dress themselves in outdoor wear and be independent in self-care. The childminder also teaches children about letter shapes so that they can eventually identify their own names. The childminder and her assistant have a good understanding of how young children learn and develop. They use good methods to track children's progress in all the areas of learning and can quickly provide specific activities to meet children's individual needs.

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

All children learn to use toys and equipment safely because the childminder and her assistant effectively remind them about hazards. The childminder conducts regular risk assessments of her premises, toys and any other venues that the children visit with the childminder. This shows that she gives children's well-being a high priority. The childminder reinforces good manners at mealtimes to provide children with good social skills which they use at school and elsewhere.

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

The childminder is committed to attending training sessions and workshops as they become available. She ensures that her paediatric first-aid certificate, and that of her assistant, is up to date. They have both attended safeguarding training. The childminder has conducted a good evaluation of her setting using the views of other professionals, parents and children. She has created an effective action plan to improve her service for children. For example, the childminder is currently planning to increase the use of sensory activities in the garden to help increase children's listening and observational skills. The childminder works closely with pre-schools and schools to help support children. She regularly exchanges information with them to ensure the younger children are receiving consistent care and older children are not experiencing difficulties at school. The childminder shares all information with parents to ensure continuity. Parents comment that they are happy with the arrangements and pleased that their children are well cared for and happy to attend.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY271770
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	843556
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	18
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 September 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2003. She lives in the Allington area of Maidstone. She provides care for children each weekday, for approximately 50 weeks a year. She does not work bank holidays. The childminder holds a recognised childcare qualification at National Vocation Qualification at level 3. Her assistant holds a qualification at level 2.

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