

Inspection date	9 March 2015
Previous inspection date	9 November 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 interacts well with the children and gives them good attention and support when needed. This enhances their confidence and self-esteem.
- The childminder has a clear and extensive range of policies enabling parents to understand her practice.
- The childminder plans a broad range of well-thought-out activities that support the children to make good progress.
- After recent training, the childminder has a secure understanding of safeguarding, the current legislation and the procedure should she have any concerns about a child's well-being.
- The childminder skilfully develops children's communication and language skills. She extends children's vocabulary by engaging them in good-quality conversations.
- The childminder has clear expectations of the children's behaviour and adapts these appropriately to each child's age and ability.
- Through her good partnership with parents, the childminder gathers information that allows her to get to know each child as an individual. This helps her to build a relationship with the child and allows them to settle quickly.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always make the most of routine and planned activities to fully promote opportunities to develop phonic knowledge.
- The childminder does not fully involve children's parents in deciding what she could improve at the setting.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase the older children's opportunities to develop their phonics knowledge through the routine and planned activities
- improve the system for evaluating practice by increasing the opportunities for parents to suggest ideas for improvements.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and the quality of her interactions with the children.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection and completed a joint observation.
- The inspector reviewed the children's assessment records, the childminder's written self-evaluation form, and a selection of policies and procedures.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through information in letters left for her to read.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and suitability and that of others working or living on the premises.

Inspector

Maxine Ansell

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 toys and games to promote children's learning and development across the areas of learning. These are easily accessible and encourage children's independence and imagination. For example, at the time of the inspection the role play corner was the vets, complete with resources for the children to use while they were caring for the sick animals. The childminder collects observations and photographs of the child's play into a parent friendly learning journey. She reviews this regularly and shares with parents, allowing them to contribute and ensure their engagement in their child's learning. The childminder introduces phonics to the older children through planned activities, for example, when sounding out their name to write in a Mother's Day card. However, the childminder does not consistently use other opportunities, such as snack and self-registering, to reinforce and extend their knowledge of individual letter sounds. The children enjoy cuddling up the childminder as she reads the books they have chosen. She skilfully extends the children's understanding of the early reading skills by talking about the characters, pictures and story structure.

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

The childminder has a good partnership with another childminder who minds one of her children. They regularly exchange information about the child's learning and care to ensure continuity. The childminder encourages the children to develop good hygiene procedures. Children understand why they need to wash their hands and use their own individual towels to stop cross contamination. Children benefit from trips to the toddler group and children's centre to develop their social skills and confidence. The childminder helps to prepare the children for their next stage in learning. For example, she develops their self-help and communication skills and uses books to increase their knowledge of going to school.

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

The childminder has a secure knowledge of the learning and development requirements and how to keep children safe. Since the previous inspection, she has reviewed her risk assessments and has written risk assessments for all her outings. She completes a daily check to ensure her home is safe and secure for the children. The childminder regularly monitors her learning journeys to ensure that the children experience activities across all the learning areas and make good progress in their individual learning. The childminder self-evaluates by assessing what is working well and areas that she could improve. She regularly seeks the views of the parents, who are very complimentary about her practice. However, the types of questions she asks do not always prompt parents to think of ideas and suggestions that may improve the practice.

Setting details

Unique reference number	125616
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	836166
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1999 and she lives in Whitstable, Kent.

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