

Inspection date	11 March 2015
Previous inspection date	25 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 provides a stimulating range of activities, which supports children to make good progress in their learning.
- The childminder is affectionate and caring with children. As a result, they are confident, happy and secure in her care.
- Children behave well as the childminder provides fair and consistent boundaries.
- The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and uses positive talk and questioning strategies to help children to develop.
- Children's safety is a high priority. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding and helps children learn how to keep themselves safe.
- Partnerships with parents and carers are strong. The childminder works closely with parents to share information about children's changing care needs and their learning and development.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children are not able to choose independently from the wide range of resources available due to storage facilities.
- The childminder does not consistently record observations shared by parents into children's learning journals to enhance children's records of their progress.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- increase children's ability to choose resources stored out of sight by providing visual reminders
- review ways to regularly include parents' observations into children's observations records.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector took note of the views of parents and other professionals.
- The inspector reviewed information about the suitability of adults living and working on the premises.
- The inspector looked at a range of documents, including children's records, policies and procedures, attendance registers and planning.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.

Inspector

Anna Kersley

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 welcoming learning environment for children with a range of activities to promote their development across the seven areas. Although the childminder has ample toys to meet children's varied interests, some are stored in the childminder's garage. This means that children cannot always independently choose what they would like to play with. The childminder prompts children to share ideas and uses effective strategies, such as questioning, to promote extended thinking. For example, the children explored a treasure box filled with sensory objects. The childminder supported children to develop their language skills and understanding of the world in order to make good progress. The childminder records new learning and uses it to plan what she can do to help children continue to develop. This is shared with parents to keep them informed. However, the childminder does not consistently record achievements seen and shared by parents. This means that learning from home is not used fully to inform children's next steps.

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

The childminder's home is clean and well equipped. The childminder regularly assesses risks to keep children safe from harm. She helps children to form healthy habits by encouraging them to eat a nutritious diet. She encourages good manners and teaches children to be kind and respectful to each other. The childminder takes the children on outings to toddler groups, other childminder's houses and local parks. As a result, children develop good social skills, grow in confidence and enjoy activities that enable them to explore the natural world and learn about road safety. This helps to develop skills to prepare children for when they go to school or pre-school.

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

The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. She ensures that her assistant undertakes relevant training to be able to help her on the occasional days she is needed. The childminder also works closely with another childminder and has backup provision in case of an emergency. She keeps records of the appropriate security checks and records visitors to ensure that children only have contact with suitable people. The childminder works closely with her colleagues to review the provision, share new ideas and make ongoing improvements. She continues these effective partnerships with other providers and shares information with staff from local pre-schools and schools.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY395787
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	830679
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2009. She lives in Maidstone, Kent. Opening times are flexible, but are normally between 7am and 7pm during the working week. The childminder occasionally works alongside an assistant and a co-childminder to meet changing family needs.

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