

Inspection date	12 March 2015
Previous inspection date	14 September 2010

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

- Children benefit from daily opportunities to play and learn in the fresh air as they explore the outdoor play area.
- The childminder introduces new vocabulary and uses gestures alongside spoken language to support their understanding. This positively extends children's communication and language development.
- The childminder carries out robust risk assessments, ensuring the areas children use are free from potential hazards and safe.
- Children have close attachments with the nurturing childminder. This helps them to form a strong bond and settle well.
- The childminder makes effective use of observations and assessments to identify children's next steps in learning and plan activities which motivate them to learn.
- The childminder has developed close partnerships with parents due to the regular exchange of information, both verbal and in writing.
- The childminder has forged strong links with other professionals to support the children and their families.
- The childminder demonstrates a commitment to improving her own practice by identifying relevant training courses to attend.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not always provide children with equipment to encourage their early writing skills in their daily play activities.
- The childminder has limited resources to help children develop an awareness of diversity in the wider community.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- further extend resources to enable children to practise their early writing skills in daily play activities
- provide a wider range of books and resources that reflect positive images of diverse backgrounds, including disabilities, to promote children's understanding and respect of differences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the daily routine and discussed the organisation and management of the childminding service with the childminder.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at all available documentation as part of the inspection process.
- The inspector looked at the computerised development files the childminder creates for each child and her planning of activities
- The inspector read responses to questionnaires to gain parents' views on the service they receive.

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 has a good knowledge and understanding of how children learn through play. She plans a full range of interesting, age-appropriate activities that continually engage the children in challenging experiences. For example, the children enjoyed using their senses as they investigated the textures and smells of the playdough. The childminder extends the children's understanding of words as she talks to them about what they are doing. Children develop their communication and language due to the quality of the teaching experiences the childminder provides. Children have access to a wide range of resources and equipment which enable them to make informed choices in their play. However, they have limited opportunities to learn about diverse cultures and needs of others. The childminder provides the children with an environment rich in print, so they learn that words have meaning. However, opportunities to develop the children's early writing skills in all areas of play are less consistent. Overall, children are making good progress in all areas of their development.

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

The childminder takes good care of all the children. She works closely with parents to gather the required information to ensure she is aware of children's individual routines and needs. The childminder encourages the children to attempt things for themselves. For example, she helped them to identify which shoe went on which foot as they put on their new shoes. The children are learning skills needed for their future because of the childminder's constant encouragement and praise for their achievements. The children's behaviour is appropriate for their age. They help look after the environment and the childminder involves them in tidying up. The childminder makes effective use of mealtimes to talk with the children about their favourite foods and how to have a healthy diet. The children enjoy going outside in the garden, for example, to look at the plants they are growing. They benefit from lots of trips to local attractions, where they learn about the world around them, and playgroups, where they develop friendships.

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

The childminder regularly reflects on her practice. She has addressed all actions and recommendations from her previous inspection to improve outcomes for children. She monitors children's progress using a computerised system. The parents appreciate the secure system as they are constantly able to access their children's learning journeys. The childminder has a good understanding of how to safeguard children while in her care. She is fully aware of child protection procedures, should she have any concerns.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY406738
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1005977
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	4
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	14 September 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2010 and lives in Kemsley, Sittingbourne, Kent. She is in receipt of funding for the provision of free early education for two-year-old children.

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