

Inspection date	14 April 2015
Previous inspection date	15 October 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 children with a variety of stimulating activities. She uses the local community and environment effectively to engage and motivate children to learn.
- The childminder uses high-quality interactions with the children. Children develop good communication, listening and language skills. They are confident during their play and interactions with the childminder and other children.
- The childminder maintains effective partnerships with parents, who comment that they are fully included in their children's care and learning.
- The childminder uses effective methods to embed clear rules and boundaries. All children behave well as a result.
- The childminder prioritises safeguarding and fully understands her role if she has child protection concerns. This helps to ensure that all children remain safe.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The environment is less visually stimulating for children to develop their recognition of letters.
- The childminder misses some opportunities to fully develop children's sense of belonging and to talk about previous learning, through visual prompts and displays.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance opportunities for children to recognise letter shapes and use these in their early writing development
- extend children's sense of belonging with personal visual prompts and displays that they can relate to.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas of the home that children use.
- The inspector observed the childminder interacting with the children.
- The inspector sampled written documentation, including children's progress reports, policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children, and gathered the views of parents.

Inspector

Kelly Hawkins

Inspection findings

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

The childminder promotes children's learning and development across all areas of learning. Children have free access to a wide range of resources that help them develop independence. Children learn life skills and have an understanding of the community and environment around them through daily outings. The childminder makes good use of opportunities to reinforce children's speech and introduce new words. As a result, all children make good progress in their communication, listening and language skills. The childminder introduces mathematical concepts through play, for example, using coloured hoops and balls to count and colour match. The childminder and parents have a detailed daily exchange of information about children's achievements. Consequently, children have consistency of care and a close link between home and the childminder.

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

The childminder's home is welcoming. The childminder maintains good relationships with the children, who feel safe and secure, promoting their emotional well-being. They often seek the childminder out to offer her cuddles, thumbs up and conversations. Children are able to be active and engage in physical play in the spacious and stimulating garden and on daily outings. The childminder offers constant opportunities for children to develop independence skills. For example, children peel their own bananas at snack time and self-choose activities. They negotiate risk and challenge with the large bouncing apparatus. Children benefit from regular trips to local toddler groups, to further develop their social skills and confidence. They develop positive attitudes and show empathy and concern towards others. The childminder prepares children well for the move to school. She liaises closely with schools and takes the children to visit them.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge of the required policies and procedures to follow. She thoroughly reviews risks in the environment and involves children in helping to keep her home safe and secure. For example, children help to tidy resources away. The childminder uses effective systems for evaluating her practice well. She is determined to continue to make positive changes and attends training to strengthen her knowledge. Effective partnerships with other professionals and childminders help to maintain continuity for children. The childminder fully supports children's individual needs well. She uses effective systems to monitor their learning and identify any gaps to address. As a result, all children make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY221161
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	846945
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	15 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1998. She lives in Maidstone, Kent. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification.

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