

Childminder Report

Inspection date

17 June 2015

Previous inspection date

14 September 2010

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 the children with an engaging environment where they are able to make informed choices in their play.
- The childminder implements good safeguarding procedures that keep children safe and meet their care and well-being needs effectively.
- The childminder provides the children with a wide range of activities to support their early writing skills.
- Children thrive in the calm and welcoming environment where they make good progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder has effective systems in place to monitor children's ongoing progress. This enables her to identify and plan for the next steps in children's learning.
- The childminder has a strong commitment to improving the service she provides by identifying relevant training courses to improve her knowledge and skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder provides children with fewer opportunities to explore a variety of textures to engage their senses while in the garden.
- The childminder does not always extend children's understanding of words by using a variety of signs and symbols in the environment.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen the outdoor environment so children can explore and investigate using their senses
- help children to understand what words are by using more visual resources in the environment.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the childminder about children's activities and their progress.
- A joint observation was conducted with the childminder watching the children engaged in an activity in the living room.
- The inspector viewed the environment and the resources provided.
- The inspector sampled a selection of documents including some policies and procedures and the records of children's learning and development.
- The inspector observed the children participating in activities and interacting with the childminder.

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's quality of teaching is good because she focuses on children's emerging interests and stages of development to support and extend their learning. For example, she listens to stories about planting beans with the children to prepare them for the next activity. The childminder, through skilful questioning, encourages children to predict what will happen next in the story. This develops their communication, language and literacy skills. Children excitedly plant their own seeds following pictorial instructions. Consequently, children learn about the world around them while they develop key skills needed for their future. The childminder works closely with other settings the children attend and they share targets they are working on. This prepares children well for the next stages of their development and helps to ensure they are ready for the move to school. The childminder has a positive relationship with parents. She shares information with them to provide continuity of care and to support their learning at home.

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

The childminder uses effective settling-in procedures that enable children to form strong bonds with her. Children feel valued and are confident because the childminder has a genuine interest in what they do and say. Children develop their independence and self-esteem as they explore the home, asking the childminder for help and support if needed. Children's behaviour is good. They happily play alongside others and offer resources to friends so that they can have a turn. The childminder provides the children with daily opportunities to exercise in the fresh air. They benefit from regular outings around the local community, to parks and schools, to strengthen their learning experiences. The childminder teaches the children about the importance of a healthy diet. As a result, children learn about how to have a healthy lifestyle.

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

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe and secure at all times. She keeps in regular contact with other early years professionals who provide support or care for the children, which promotes consistency. The childminder regularly reviews and monitors the service she provides. She encourages parents to review her service by sending out questionnaires. This enables them to work together to improve the outcomes for children's learning and well-being. The childminder has addressed all previous recommendations, which demonstrates a commitment to moving her practice forward. She is at present training to use a new computerised tracking system to improve the good monitoring already in place. Parents' comments state that they are very happy with the service they receive from the childminder.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY227323
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	842660
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	14 September 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2002 and lives in Sittingbourne, Kent. The childminder holds a formal qualification equivalent to level 4.

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