

Childminder Report

Inspection date	6 July 2015
Previous inspection date	3 June 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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 is enthusiastic and has a very good understanding of how children learn through play. She identifies children's skills through regular observations and assessments and plans activities to develop their further learning. As a result, children make good progress from their starting points.
- The childminder has developed a clear understanding of the requirements relating to protecting children and updated her policies and procedures accordingly.
- Children develop strong bonds with the childminder. Consequently, they are confident and show high levels of self-esteem.
- The childminder has been proactive in increasing her skills and knowledge through training and reflecting on her practice. This enables her to continually make improvements to the quality of care and learning the children receive.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Sometimes the activities to develop children's early writing skills are not age appropriate.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop a wider range of age-appropriate activities to support children's interest in reading and writing as they acquire a natural curiosity through play and everyday routines.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children during activities, inside the home and in the garden, to assess how well the childminder supports their learning and keeps them safe.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at samples of observations, records of children's progress and planning.
- The inspector viewed a range of documents, including records and policies to assess how the childminder develops her practice.
- The inspector viewed parent questionnaires to find out about parents' views of the childminder's provision.

Inspector

Linda du Preez

Inspection findings

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

The childminder ensures that children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning and tracks children's progress well. Therefore, any gaps in learning and development are identified and addressed quickly. She provides a good range of learning experiences, which children clearly enjoy. She encourages children to count and develop an interest in letters and words through the daily routine. However, at times she provides activities which are not age appropriate, such as worksheets. Nevertheless, children are motivated in their learning as a direct result of the childminder's skilful teaching. They enjoy feeding birds and learning about how plants grow as they develop an interest in the natural world. The childminder provides children with support when needed, but balances this with encouragement to try things for themselves. Therefore, children become independent and confident as they play and explore in the childminder's stimulating home.

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

The childminder gathers useful information about the children during the initial visits to her home. This enables her to support the children to settle and feel secure in her care. The childminder takes children on outings and trips to local playgroups. They learn to share and take turns as they develop useful social skills in readiness for starting school. Children learn how to care for themselves and adopt a healthy lifestyle. The childminder teaches them the importance of handwashing before eating and after messy play. Children thrive on the range of exciting opportunities to explore in her garden, which enable them to enjoy exercise and develop physical skills in the fresh air.

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

The childminder has developed a clear understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She checks that areas are safe and secure by conducting risk assessments for all parts of her home, garden and on outings. The childminder has good relationships with parents and they are very happy with the care and learning their children receive. The childminder has worked hard to improve her skills and knowledge by completing training courses and updating written policies. She works closely with other childminders and organisations to keep up-to-date with changes and to develop her skills. This enables her to continually make improvements to the quality of care and learning the children receive. The childminder shares records of children's progress with parents to keep them informed of their child's progress in her setting and seeks their views on their children's progress. This good approach to working in partnership enhances consistency in children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	126822
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1020923
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	3 June 2015
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1999. She lives with her husband in Dartford, Kent. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder cares for children all year round from 7.30am to 6.30pm.

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