

Childminder Report

Inspection date	13 October 2015
Previous inspection date	9 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Risk assessments are thorough and robust and help the childminder to ensure that children are safe and secure at the home and on outings in the local area.
- The childminder has experience of caring for children of varying ages. When planning activities, she enables all children to participate at their developmental level and she deploys herself to ensure they all receive the appropriate support.
- Children feel safe and secure with the childminder. The childminder is kind and caring. The supportive relationships she has with children help them to explore with confidence and to become independent learners, making choices about what they play with.
- The childminder encourages children to undertake risks. For example, when playing on large apparatus in the garden, the childminder helps children to climb initially but as confidence grows she stands back and lets children complete the task independently.
- The childminder agrees strategies with parents and carers to support children as they make the move to other early years settings. For example, she takes children to toddler groups and arranges play activities to help children develop social skills, such as sharing and turn taking.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder is keen to provide a service that continuously improves. However, her self-evaluation does not enable her to highlight changes in early years practice to further improve her skills.
- Parents and carers share in their children's learning. They may look at their children's developmental folders whenever they wish and continue learning at home. However, the childminder sometimes misses opportunities to engage all parents and carers in this process consistently.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make more effective use of self-evaluation to remain fully up to date with changes in early years practice
- strengthen partnerships with parents to share information, to ensure that their input to learning is included at all times.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector had discussions with the childminder, parents and children.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's records and safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents and carers.

Inspector

Karen Scott

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder has a secure understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder ensures that her knowledge of safeguarding is up to date so that she is aware of what to do if she should have any concerns about a child. The childminder evaluates her setting, valuing the views of parents and carers when doing this. She sets plans for improvement that are realistic and that increase the learning outcomes for children. Recommendations raised at the previous inspection have been addressed well. The childminder is keen to participate in training to build on her knowledge and when doing so she thinks about what will help her support the children that she is currently caring for.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder ensures that the space is suitable for children to explore and investigate. Children are active learners and the childminder supports them to be creative and to think thoughtfully as they play. For example, children play with a colourful light-making machine in dark and light environments, creating patterns and discovering the effect of her actions as they touch it. The childminder adds to the experience and learning by introducing colour names and counting, which the children respond positively to. The childminder knows the children that she is caring for very well. She uses observation successfully to plan activities that the children will enjoy and promote learning especially where further support is required. For example, knowing that children are wary of experiencing different textures, the childminder places favourite toy animals in a tub of dried leaves which results in the children crunching leaves, listening to the sounds made. The childminder introduces new words and asks questions that require the children to think and develop their speaking during this absorbing activity.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children develop a good understanding of a healthy lifestyle. For example, they know when to and why they wash their hands and they enjoy daily fresh air. The childminder encourages children to make choices about playing outside but helps them to enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise. Children develop a good understanding of safety due to the childminder's clear guidance and support. For example, when children say that part of the floor is slippery, the childminder helps them to think about what could happen if they play there.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress in their learning and development. Children take charge of their own well-being. For example, they independently put their own coats and shoes on. They help themselves to drinks, knowing when and why they may be thirsty. Children take action when they are feeling tired, supported by the childminder. For example, they help themselves to their favourite stories which they share with the childminder, relaxing and listening with interest and enjoyment.

Setting details

Unique reference number	126787
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	840581
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	4
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2000. She lives in Eastchurch, in Sheerness, Kent. The childminder has a relevant childcare qualification. Childcare is offered from 7am to 7pm, five days a week, all year round.

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