

Childminder Report

Inspection date	9 November 2015
Previous inspection date	20 October 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Good	2
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- Children are happy, confident and show high levels of self-esteem. They develop strong, affectionate relationships with the childminder and each other. Older children are kind and play well with the younger children. All children receive a good level of individual attention so are contented and settled.
- Partnerships with parents are strong and the childminder regularly exchanges information about children's care and learning. This helps to ensure that she provides children with consistency in their care and meets their needs.
- The childminder makes ongoing assessments of children's progress and involves parents fully in the process. She provides a broad range of activities that build on children's knowledge and skills and help them make good progress in their learning.
- The childminder promotes the children's outdoor play. For example, an all-weather surface in part of the garden enables children to enjoy year-round outdoor play, together with outings to the park.
- The childminder understands each of her children as individual, incorporating their different cultures and languages into her home.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- Children do not always have the opportunity to increase their skills in independence.
- The childminder does not always make full use the evaluation of her practice and skills by parents and children to support improvements.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- review children's opportunities to access resources to increase their independence skills
- make better use of self-evaluation to develop a sharper focus on areas that will continue to move the practice forward.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children participating in activities and interacting with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector reviewed the children's assessment records and a selection of policies and procedures, including the safeguarding procedure.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of the parents, as given in their written feedback to the childminder.

Inspector

Maxine Ansell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to protect children from harm and completes regular checks to ensure the children are safe. She is aware of the procedure should she have concerns about a child's well-being. Safeguarding is effective. She monitors the progress made by all children and writes regular reports on children's achievements and next steps. This information is shared with parents to promote home learning. The childminder updates her knowledge and skills through reading Early Years literature and discussing good practice with other childminders.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder helps children to develop good communication and language skills. For example, the childminder plays purposefully with them, supporting and encouraging their speaking skills. The childminder provides a wide range of equipment that helps children develop good control and supports the development of their early writing skills. For example, they post letters into the post box and are able to pull themselves up on the furniture to develop their large muscles and walking skills. The children develop their social skills as they mix and play with other children at playgroups.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder promotes excellent, consistent, positive behaviour with the children. She has clear boundaries and a sensitive approach, which is appropriate to children's ages and stages of development. Children's behaviour is extraordinarily good at all times. The childminder promotes children's emotional security exceptionally well. They benefit from and understand the familiar routines, enjoying plenty of praise and reassurance. This helps them to form extremely close attachments, have a strong sense of belonging and separate easily from parents. The childminder promotes healthy eating habits and follows highly effective health and hygiene procedures. Children learn to keep themselves safe; for example, they tidy away one activity before starting another to avoid tripping hazards. The childminder helps to build children's confidence and independence well. For example, she encourages younger children to feed themselves and older children to dress and manage their own toileting needs.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points and develop the necessary skills to support their future learning. Young babies enjoy the freedom to move around and explore their environment, enabling them to develop their curiosity and understanding of the world around them.

Setting details

Unique reference number	125142
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	825352
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1989 and lives in Gravesend, Kent. She cares for children daily between the hours of 7.30am and 6pm for most of the year. The childminder is accredited to receive government funding for the provision of free early years education for children aged two, three and four years old.

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