

Childminder Report

Inspection date	9 November 2016
Previous inspection date	2 December 2013

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

- The childminder uses observations and assessments of children's learning effectively, to identify their achievements and what they need to learn next. She provides a well-organised learning environment that helps children to make informed choices in their play. Children make good progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder has a good knowledge of how to safeguard and protect children. She works closely with her co-childminder to regularly update policies and procedures, in order to improve the service provided.
- The childminder has built very effective relationships with parents. For example, she shares valuable information with them to support children's learning at home.
- The childminder has a clear understanding of how to support her assistant. She recognises the importance of ensuring her assistant develops his skills and keeps up to date with safeguarding legislation and guidance.
- Children have daily opportunities to exercise. For example, they enjoy using the garden and local parks where they learn about nature and develop their physical skills.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not provide children with the best possible opportunities to build on their early writing skills.
- Sometimes, the childminder does not provide younger children with appropriate resources and experiences that enable them to join in with group activities fully.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide more opportunities for children to develop and practise their early writing skills
- develop opportunities for younger children to explore and experiment using a good range of materials to enable them to join in fully with group activities.

Inspection activities

- The inspector sampled a range of documents including the safeguarding policy and children's assessment folders.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector observed the daily routine and practice and discussed the organisation and management of overnight care with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at areas of the home used by children in relation to their health and safety.
- The inspector spoke to and read letters from parents to take account of their views.

Inspector

Sara Garrity

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has a good awareness of safeguarding children and the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about children in her care. She carries out thorough risk assessments to keep the environment safe and teaches children how to keep themselves safe. For example, not to walk too close to the swing. The childminder is committed to improving outcomes for children. She regularly reflects on her practice and increases her skills and knowledge through a variety of training. The childminder has clear rules and boundaries in place, for example she encourages good manners such as when friends share toys. The childminder has secure partnerships with other early years professionals to provide a continuity of care and learning for all children and their families. She monitors the work of her assistant effectively and efficiently.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

All children are actively involved in their play and learning. For example, children eagerly sit down with the childminder to look at their chosen book and excitedly talk about what they see in the pictures. The childminder uses questions skilfully to extend children's understanding. For example, she talks about who else might have a tail like the dinosaur. The childminder helps children to develop their communication and language skills. For instance, she makes strong use of repetition and commentary to help children's pronunciation. Children develop their mathematical skills in all aspects of their play. For example, they role play a tea party, count cups and practise their pouring skills to explore the concepts of full and empty. Children benefit from outings, which include trips to the beach and local attractions to learn about their community and the world around them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children form strong attachments with the childminder. They confidently explore the home knowing that the childminder is close at hand for a hug or help if needed. The childminder is a good role model for children and reinforces positive behaviour through praise. For example, she encourages children as they attempt to pour water into cups. Children are very well behaved. For instance, children take turns and let their friends have a go on the swing. Children learn to keep themselves safe and healthy as they wash their hands before meals and after using the bathroom. The childminder encourages healthy lifestyles and is aware of how to support any dietary requirements.

Outcomes for children are good

Children make good progress from their starting points. They develop good independence skills and are confident in their play. For instance, they eagerly put on their boots ready to go to the park. Children gain the skills they need for the next stage in their learning and are well prepared for their future.

Setting details

Unique reference number	126253
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1061311
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	5
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	2 December 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2000. She lives in Allington, near Maidstone, Kent. She works with her husband, who is a co-childminder, and their son, who works as their assistant. The childminder offers care every day from 7am to 7pm. She is also registered to provide overnight care. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3.

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Piccadilly Gate
Store St
Manchester
M1 2WD

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