

Childminder Report

Inspection date	26 January 2017
Previous inspection date	23 January 2014

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 is successful in monitoring children's progress. She identifies any gaps and ensures the planning includes activities to help children to achieve the best they can. For example, the childminder trialled a range of tools and materials that successfully engaged boys in creative opportunities and enhanced their skills.
- The childminder and her assistant share warm relationships with children and babies. Children show that they feel emotionally secure in their care. They enjoy snuggling in and have a familiar routine, supporting their sense of security and belonging.
- The childminder and her assistant are highly effective at supporting children's communication and language development. For example, they emphasise words clearly to improve children's understanding and speaking skills. Children make good progress in their learning from their starting points.
- The childminder monitors and supports her assistant effectively to maintain consistency and improve teaching. For example, she observes his practice and holds daily discussions to build on outcomes for children.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently use all opportunities to extend children's mathematical awareness of counting and of comparing size.
- Occasionally, the childminder and her assistant over-direct children's play during creative activities, which does not consistently build on their exploration skills.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make the most of opportunities to consistently challenge children to count and to compare size
- provide consistent encouragement for children to independently explore and engage in the creative activities on offer.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children during their play and learning experiences.
- The inspector observed children and the childminder interacting, and discussed children's learning and development.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records and evidence of the childminder's suitability and qualifications.

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The childminder has positive partnerships with parents and other settings children attend, and she shares information to support children's learning. She keeps parents fully informed about their children's day to enable them to support learning further at home. The childminder develops her practice well. For example, she completes training and reads relevant information. This has helped her to widen the learning experiences for children and babies, such as providing them with a variety of natural resources to enable them to use greater imagination in their play. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistant have a secure understanding of child protection procedures and know the action to take if they have concerns for children's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder provides a wide range of activities and toys that help her meet all children's learning needs. For example, children's attention was fully engaged as they explored the water painting equipment. The childminder and her assistant were effective in introducing new vocabulary to the children during the activity and encouraged sharing and turn taking well. The childminder is effective at using props and objects to support learning, such as of familiar songs. This helps children to become engrossed and involved in the songs they are singing. The childminder reviews children's and babies' progress regularly to ensure that she can develop their skills and build on areas where they require additional input. She uses children's interests well to plan activities to encourage new skills. For example, she extends children's interest in hammers to a building construction activity, enhancing their creativity and understanding of the world.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder sets clear boundaries to help children learn about the behaviour expectations. Children behave very well, including using good manners. The childminder helps children to gain an awareness of healthy lifestyles. For instance, she provides healthy meals and extends children's awareness with growing and planting activities to reinforce the importance of healthy eating. Children and babies have good opportunities to develop their physical skills. For example, they enjoy exploring the sensory and role-play areas and have plenty of space to move around freely and safely.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are happy, sociable and motivated. For example, the older children tried to blow bubbles themselves and the babies giggled with delight as they watched the bubbles fall. They carefully investigated the marks the bubbles make on paper as they popped. Older children learn to manage their personal routines, such as feeding themselves. This helps to prepare them for their next stage of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	125266
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1068447
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	13
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	23 January 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1988. She provides childcare from Monday to Friday, all year. The childminder works with her husband, who is her registered assistant.

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