

Childminder Report

Inspection date	16 November 2017
Previous inspection date	11 January 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 regularly shares information with parents about their children's progress. This helps her to plan effectively for their individual needs and abilities, and involve parents in their children's learning.
- The childminder successfully supports young children's communication and language development. For example, she repeats their early words and introduces new words, such as 'postman', to develop their skills further.
- Frequent opportunities for fresh air and exercise are provided for children. They learn about their local community and enjoy trips to local country parks where they enthusiastically join in with exploring nature.
- Children and their families form secure bonds with the childminder. She is very aware of children's individual interests, and helps them to settle quickly.
- Children thoroughly enjoy developing their independence. For example, they wash their hands without help.
- The dedicated childminder has made good improvements since the last inspection and has consistently updated her skills and knowledge.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not consistently offer children a wide range of opportunities to explore their early writing skills.
- The childminder does not make the best possible use of children's views to help her when identifying improvement plans.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- provide a better variety of learning opportunities to encourage children to explore their ideas when they practise their early writing skills
- extend the effective evaluation of the provision to include children's thoughts and views more.

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke to parents and read their written feedback to consider their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and assessed the impact of this on children's learning.
- The inspector reviewed children's learning records, and policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder at appropriate times.
- The inspector observed children's play.

Inspector

Anna Fisk

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has a good understanding about the signs and symptoms of abuse. She knows the procedure to follow and whom to contact with any such concerns. The childminder shares assessments of children's progress with parents to help keep them informed. She frequently assesses children's learning to identify any gaps in their learning. She knows how to give positive support to help children to continue their good progress. Overall, the childminder evaluates her practice well and seeks the views of parents, to help her identify and set targets for further improvement. She is reflective about her practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder gathers information from parents about what children can do when they start. She uses this information and observes children to identify their starting points. The childminder effectively plans for children's next steps in their learning. Children enjoy exploring their imagination with resources and use their fine manipulative skills effectively when putting together the pieces of a puzzle. Young children enjoy pretending to feed dolls and put them to bed. The childminder helps children to develop their early mathematical skills, such as when a number is recognised and counted out loud. Children positively respond to the childminder as she plays alongside them.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children receive frequent praise and encouragement from the childminder. This helps to raise their self-esteem and confidence. They demonstrate a real sense of responsibility for their environment as they eagerly help to carry out age-appropriate tasks. For example, children help to clear away their own plates and cups when they have finished eating their healthy lunch. Children enjoy exploring the outdoors. They learn about the local environment and enjoy regular walks. The childminder talks to children about keeping themselves healthy through the use of stories and discussions. The childminder's praise for children's achievements helps them to grow in confidence as they learn new skills, such as how to put on their shoes.

Outcomes for children are good

Children learn the skills needed, ready for their move on to school. They are eager to learn and explore the wide range of activities provided. Young children enjoy books and learn about the world around them. Children are inquisitive in their play. For example, they had fun exploring a mirror and looking at the differences in their faces.

Setting details

Unique reference number	125646
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	1078639
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 5
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	11 January 2013
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1984. She lives in Maidstone and operates from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, all year round. The childminder also provides overnight care.

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