

Childminder report

33 Hamilton Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1QJ



Inspection date	16 October 2018
Previous inspection date	16 September 2015

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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

The provision is good

- The childminder knows the children very well. She provides consistent and continuous care that supports their confidence and feeling of security. This helps to promote their emotional well-being.
- Children's language and communication is promoted effectively. The childminder uses effective open-ended questions and allows children time to absorb information and respond in their own way. They confidently use gestures, expressions and verbal language to express their needs.
- The childminder is eager to continuously improve her practice. She researches training courses and uses a network of local childminders as an active source of information. She assesses how new practices have an impact on the children in her care and adapts practices to improve outcomes for individual children.
- Children develop good self-help skills. Young children learn to put on their shoes. They gain a good understanding of hygiene procedures, such as washing hands after messy play, toileting and outdoor play.
- Children explore and experiment with living things. They use pictorial aids to look for creatures in the garden, learning about how they move, where they live and how to handle them carefully.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- On some occasions, the indoor play environment is cluttered with activities already prepared for children. This does not always fully support children's choices and decision making.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- enhance children's opportunities to make choices for themselves in play, to help to fully support their decision making and help extend their concentration and focus.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children in the indoor and outdoor play environments.
- The inspector looked at documentation, such as policies and procedures, children's records and suitability checks.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children where appropriate.
- The inspector took into consideration the written and verbal comments from parents.
- The inspector looked at the childminder's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Claire Parnell

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder keeps up to date with training and developing her understanding of how to keep children safe from harm. She has a clear knowledge of the procedures to follow to promote their ongoing welfare. Children learn to keep themselves safe. The childminder gives clear explanations and helps children to assess their safety. For example, she talks children through where the best place is to try new physical play equipment for the first time. Parents make very positive comments about the continual quality of care and learning their children receive. They play an active role in helping the childminder to assess the effectiveness of her service and how to improve her practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a secure knowledge of how to promote children's all round development through purposeful play experiences. For example, an effectively planned painting activity helps children to develop confidence to explore and to develop their sensory skills. They extend their small-muscle skills, use new language and learn about shape and colour recognition. The childminder's assessment system is well established. She recognises how each child learns best and links their achievements to the stages and areas of learning. She plans children's next steps effectively and monitors their progress to identify any gaps in their learning. Parents are well informed about their children's progress. They successfully use information from the childminder to support their children's learning at home.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

Children are continuously challenged to learn new physical skills indoors and outdoors. For example, the childminder talks children through how to use new equipment safely to develop skills of bouncing and balancing. Children experience play in the fresh air everyday. Children behave well, learning to negotiate and cooperate with their peers and adults. They experience group play to help support their social skills. The childminder uses plentiful praise and encouragement to help children feel proud of their achievements, promoting their self-esteem. The childminder provides children with positive images of today's society, helping them to celebrate and recognise their differences.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are making good progress in all areas of development. They explore and experiment throughout their play using other people as positive role models for their learning. For example, they copy drawing around their hands with different tools. They then extend this by exploring with different materials, such as paint and brushes to then paint around their hands. They develop control and precise movements. This helps to develop their small-muscle skills in preparation for early writing skills at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	156023
Local authority	Medway
Inspection number	10071660
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	16 September 2015

The childminder registered in 2001 and lives in Gillingham, Kent. She operates all year round from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 3.

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