

Childminder report

Inspection date	25 January 2019
Previous inspection date	15 January 2016

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

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The experienced childminder and her assistant offer a vibrant and stimulating environment where children become exceptionally confident learners. Children's individual personalities shine through all aspects of their play and learning and they thrive in the childminder's care.
- The childminder is passionate about raising the standards of her provision. She uses highly effective self-evaluation tools to regularly reflect on her practice and the quality of teaching and learning. She uses these to identify her priorities to help her provide the highest standards of care for children.
- The childminder and her assistant have an excellent quality of teaching and high expectations for all the children. They are highly skilled at identifying when to challenge children, to extend their thinking and when to step back to let them explore.
- Children demonstrate exceptional social skills. The childminder uses inspiring strategies to encourage all children to respect one another and develop a positive sense of themselves. For instance, children use a welcome board to choose individual greetings when meeting visitors. Some choose to shake hands, others wave, those who need time to think watch their friends before choosing.
- Children demonstrate high levels of curiosity and engagement, such as when exploring literacy resources. For instance, boys concentrate for exceptional lengths of time as they explore using different tools for mark making. They eagerly share their ideas about the images in books as they sit quietly sharing stories together.
- The childminder establishes superb partnerships with parents and the additional settings that some children attend. Parents actively contribute to children's observations and assessments to evaluate children's progress and plan for their next steps. This contributes to children's consistently high levels of progress in all areas of development.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to raise professional knowledge and skills to an even higher level, to enhance children's learning experiences even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked with the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector viewed some written documentation, including children's developmental records, risk assessments, policies and procedures.
- The inspector viewed written feedback from parents to gain their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact it has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the childminder.

Inspector

Nicola Edwards

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has an excellent knowledge of the safeguarding procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child's welfare. Children's safety is paramount, the childminder implements effective risk assessments and children confidently practise the fire drill. The childminder monitors her assistant's progress extremely well. She ensures that they meet regularly to plan for children's learning and to update their knowledge of the policies and procedures, as well as any changes to statutory requirements. The childminder continually researches a wide range of early years subjects, including the health and well-being of children, and shares best practice with other childminders. She plans to develop the professional skills and knowledge of herself and her assistant further to allow them to continue to maintain their already excellent outcomes for children and enhance their learning experiences.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder is diligent in her assessment and monitoring of children's development, to help ensure that any gaps in learning are quickly identified. Children are offered a wealth of opportunities to develop their imaginative skills, indoors and outdoors. For instance, during role play, children carefully pack food into their lunch boxes as they discuss that they are 'going to work'. They then 'travel' to their destination and sit down together to eat as they talk about it being 'hard work all day'. Mathematics is incorporated into an abundance of activities. Children show increasing hand-to-eye coordination, for example, as they colour the individual boxes of their tartan pictures for Burns Night.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder and her assistant are strong role models and build extremely nurturing relationships with the children in their care. This helps them to feel extremely well settled. Children demonstrate high levels of self-esteem and confidence. For example, they enthusiastically share jokes, ask for help to complete new tasks and share their achievements. Children's behaviour is exceptional. They demonstrate outstanding social skills, kindness and respect. For instance, older children notice when younger children need help to do up their shoes and immediately help them. Others pick up toys when they see their friends have dropped them. Children are offered excellent opportunities to develop their understanding of one another's similarities and differences. For example, they talk about the differences between their families and ask thoughtful questions about the differences between people who are blind and those who can see.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children are extremely well prepared for the next steps in their learning and the eventual move to school, including those who speak English as an additional language. Children are confident communicators. They are eager to learn and are enthusiastic to take part in activities. Young children develop the skills for toilet training very quickly. Older children become effective problem solvers. For example, when comparing the lengths of arms and heights of different people and identifying how many chairs are needed at the table for mealtimes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	956817
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10063890
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	15 January 2016

The childminder registered in 1997. She lives in Sevenoaks, Kent. The childminder is able to provide overnight care for two children. The childminder operates her service from 8am to 6pm, all year round. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. She works with an assistant.

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