

Childminder report

Inspection date	19 February 2019
Previous inspection date	21 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

This provision is good

- Children develop strong bonds with the childminder. They settle quickly and comfortably in her care. Children happily seek the childminder's company in their play or if they need a reassuring cuddle. Parents comment that children are happy, safe and content in the childminder's care.
- The childminder has a positive attitude to developing her practice. She welcomes feedback from parents and children. The childminder uses these comments to help her evaluate and make changes to enhance her provision further. This helps her to maintain the good level of care that she offers.
- The childminder has effective systems to observe and assess children's achievements. She knows the children well and she has a good knowledge of the interests of children in her care. The childminder uses this information to help her to ensure that children are progressing well.
- Partnerships with parents are strong. The childminder maintains a daily exchange of information regarding children's care and developmental needs. She works closely with parents to further support children's learning at home. This helps to ensure a consistent approach.
- Overall, the childminder interacts well to promote children's learning. However, on occasions, she does not recognise opportunities that arise to build on their interest in activities to offer greater challenge.
- At times, the childminder does not give enough consideration to ways in which she can further extend children's problem-solving skills and mathematical understanding.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make greater use of opportunities, to extend children's learning further in their spontaneous play
- explore more ways to enhance children's mathematical knowledge and understanding even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children during play sessions and meal times.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector viewed children's developmental records and discussed children's progress with the childminder.
- The inspector carried out a joint evaluation of a planned activity with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector
Amanda Vidler

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder gives high priority to children's safety. For instance, she conducts risk assessments which she uses to help her provide a safe environment. The childminder knows the children and their families well. She is confident in the procedures to follow to record and report any concerns, to help keep children safe and protected. The childminder recognises the impact that training has on practice and seeks regular courses, which help her to keep up to date. For example, through training the childminder has developed a stronger understanding of current safeguarding issues and requirements, such as those relating to current legislation. The childminder works well with other professionals, such as staff from local nurseries. She uses these well-established links to help her support individual children in her care.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder maintains a welcoming environment. She enables children of all ages to have easy access to a good range of resources indoors and outside. The childminder is supportive of children exploring and developing their own ideas. Overall, the childminder is a good teacher. She recognises how to engage in children's play, to further encourage them to practise their emerging skills. For example, the childminder demonstrates how to roll play dough to make balls and how to add other resources, such as uncooked pasta, to make models. Young children copy the childminder's actions and show developing physical skills. They use simple tools, such as rolling pins and scissors with coordination, to help them create their models.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder provides nutritious meals and snacks. She encourages children to be healthy, for example, by supporting them to eat well and drink water throughout the day. The childminder is skilled at recognising situations when children may need extra support. She offers this in a sensitive way. For example, on occasions when children are wanting the same toys, the childminder calmly talks to them about the importance of sharing. This helps children to develop a good understanding of how to play cooperatively with others. The childminder is aware of the importance of outdoor experiences and children benefit from regular trips. This helps to support their health and social skills.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are independent and enthusiastic learners who enjoy challenge and persevere with simple tasks. They show developing independence and self-care skills. For instance, young children welcome the chance to learn to put on their shoes to be ready for outdoor play. They benefit from lots of encouragement. Children smile and comment that they have 'done it' when they successfully get their shoes on. Children develop and practise skills that support their progression to the next stages in their learning. For example, young children start to show early writing skills as they use pens to make marks and draw shapes on paper. Older children show strong skills and coordination as they start to write the letters in their names.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY343938
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10063782
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 10
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	21 September 2015

The childminder registered in 2006. She lives in Dartford, Kent. The childminder operates Monday to Friday, 7am to 5.30pm, all year, except for public and family holidays. The childminder also offers overnight care. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3.

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