

Childminder report

Inspection date	21 March 2019
Previous inspection date	15 June 2016

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		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The kind and caring childminder follows children's interests particularly well. She provides a wide range of exciting, age appropriate activities and encourages children to make independent choices about their play.
- The childminder knows her children extremely well. Highly effective settling-in arrangements ensure that the childminder builds strong emotional attachments to children in her care. This contributes to their high levels of self-esteem and strong sense of belonging.
- Children make good progress from their starting points. The childminder uses her detailed observations and assessments to plan age appropriate next steps for children's learning.
- Parent partnerships are effective. Parents speak highly of the childminder and the wide range of activities and opportunities children have access to. They praise her nurturing manner and the individual care she gives to their children.
- Children have excellent opportunities to learn about nature and the world around them. For instance, they are excited to explore life cycles as they raise caterpillars into butterflies and visit the local duck pond and nature areas to learn about the animals.
- Although the childminder has a self-evaluation system, there is scope to seek the views from parents and children to help her to improve her provision even further.
- The childminder does not consistently use all opportunities to gain information from parents about children's home learning to aid her planning even further.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- strengthen opportunities for parents and children to contribute their views, to help identify strengths and areas of improvement
- identify the best ways to gain information from parents about what children learn at home, to inform planning and assessments even further.

Inspection activities

- The inspector talked with the childminder 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 viewed all areas of the home which children have access to.

Inspector

Nicola Edwards

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is good

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder talks confidently about the signs that indicate that a child could be at risk of abuse or neglect. She understands her responsibilities to report any concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder is committed to her ongoing professional development. She has a network of local childminders with whom she shares updates about statutory requirements. They regularly meet to share creative activities which also develops children's social skills for working in larger groups. The childminder regularly attends training courses and conferences, as well as researching information about children's development. For example, she recently attended training about supporting children with dyslexia or speech and language needs to further support children's individual requirements.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder offers good opportunities for children to develop strength and coordination in their hands, to prepare for early writing skills. For instance, children are excited to manipulate 'space sand' to create shapes and push it into containers for making castles. Children confidently use tools to make marks and use all their senses as they play. They are encouraged to explore sand and make prints with their hands and feet, which they squeeze between their fingers and toes. Children's communication skills are well supported. The childminder narrates play well and is skilled at asking children questions about their play. For example, children enjoy selecting books to read with the childminder. As they eagerly point out the colours, shapes and pictures, the childminder sensitively models the correct pronunciation of words to develop their vocabulary and understanding.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

The childminder gains excellent information from parents about children's starting points that support children's individual needs from the outset. Children's behaviour is exemplary. They confidently share, take turns and are exceptionally kind. For example, children delight in playing board games. They follow rules, recognise whose turn is next and concentrate extremely well. Children excitedly hug the childminder as they call 'save me' before the timer goes off. Children's unique and positive personalities shine through in their play. Children demonstrate high levels of curiosity and inquisitiveness. For instance, they talk about the facial expressions of different small world characters and the relationships between the different people. Children are offered excellent opportunities to learn about feelings and emotions. such as through the characters in books. They confidently talk about the caterpillar having 'hiccups' after eating too much food and 'crying' because he has tummy ache.

Outcomes for children are good

Children are well prepared for the next steps in their learning. Young children develop good early mathematical skills, such as counting in sequence, and understand the concept of 'bigger' and 'smaller'. Children have good imaginative skills. They enjoy making cups of tea for visitors, cooking pancakes and pretend to dial the numbers on mobile phones to talk to their parents.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY418522
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10074645
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Date of previous inspection	15 June 2016

The childminder registered in 2010. She lives in Hextable, near Swanley, in Kent. The childminder offers her service from 7.30am to 6.30pm, all year round, apart from family and bank holidays.

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