

Childminder report

Inspection date: 12 February 2020

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
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The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

The exceptionally friendly and nurturing childminder creates an inviting environment where children feel safe and secure. She makes excellent attachments with children, who thrive in her thoughtful and understanding care. She knows them extremely well and plans stimulating activities that perfectly meet their needs and interests. For example, young children develop their language skills as they enthusiastically find red objects hidden in a treasure basket and name them. The childminder pronounces words clearly and encourages children to repeat them.

The childminder has very high yet realistic expectations for young children's behaviour. Her calm and respectful manner makes her an excellent role model for children to learn how to self-regulate their behaviour. The childminder gently reminds them how to look after one another, share and take turns. She gives children words to express their feelings and emotions and is always ready to give children a cuddle to reassure and comfort them.

Children are confident and curious as they explore and play. For instance, during art activities, they are completely absorbed in investigating how to make marks with felt-tip pens and glue. They are encouraged to try different ways of doing things and become excited when they make discoveries, such as when they noticed the light changing as they looking through a red-coloured bowl.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The childminder is an extremely reflective practitioner who places children's welfare at the forefront of her practice. She regularly attends training, shares best practice with other professionals and researches new ideas about children's learning to update her knowledge and skills. For example, she has learned how young children repeatedly practise new skills in different ways.
- Children make excellent progress in their communication and language skills. The childminder identifies where children need more support and quickly puts interventions in place to help them. She uses pictures and stories to increase children's understanding and to introduce new words. She reads clearly and with excellent intonation and expression as she instils in them a love of books, stories and rhymes.
- The childminder works extremely well with other professionals and settings children attend to maintain consistency in their learning and care. She provides them with precise and detailed assessments and information, and shares excellent teaching strategies. For instance, she shares a 'transitions book' she has made to support children's understanding of daily routines. She meticulously monitors and tracks children's progress to ensure they are ready for the next stage in their learning, such as when they go to nursery or school.

- The children respond positively to the childminder's enthusiastic and gentle manner. They listen to her and follow instructions extremely well. The childminder encourages the confident and self-motivated children to make choices about what they want to do. For example, they know that the childminder will listen to them when they include her in their play or ask for different toys.
- Children learn to keep themselves healthy and fit. They enjoy practising their physical skills as they run, push the doll's pushchair, help to put on their own coats and use pens and glue spreaders. The childminder ensures they wash their hands before sitting down to eat fresh, nutritious foods. She makes good use of local parks, castles and woodland, as well as her garden, to provide children with bigger spaces and fresh air.
- Parents are delighted with the care their children receive. They are extremely pleased with the positive relationships their children have made with the childminder and recognise how much they look forward to spending time with her. Parents comment on the childminder's excellent communication skills. They know what their children are learning and know how they can support them at home.
- Children are extremely happy and settled. They turn to the childminder as a source of fun as well as emotional support. She is highly skilled in understanding each child's emotional needs. They actively seek new experiences and practise their skills as they eagerly explore and investigate the broad range of toys and resources. For instance, they spontaneously count and recognise shapes as they notice things that capture their interest in the child-centred environment.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder knows how to keep children safe. She has a broad knowledge of child protection and wider safeguarding issues. She knows what signs to look for that might indicate a child's welfare is at risk. She has recently updated her safeguarding information to reflect changes to the referral process in the local authority and has shared this with parents. Her record-keeping is excellent, and she knows how and when to share this information with other settings and professionals as appropriate. The childminder helps children learn to stay safe, such as teaching road safety when they are out walking with her.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY398060
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10136569
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	2 to 6
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	25 November 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alison Martin

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The childminder spoke with the inspector about her curriculum for children on a learning walk around the setting.
- The inspector took account of parents' views by reading their written comments.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including children's records, policies and procedures.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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