

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 August 2021

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are very settled and confident in the childminder's care. They confidently explore their familiar play environment, deciding where to play and what to play with. They develop close relationships with the childminder, her family and their peers.

Children show a great deal of care towards others, sharing and working together to succeed in their tasks. They learn to negotiate and cooperate in their play and daily tasks. For example, older children act as positive role models during construction activities, showing their younger friends how to join pieces together. They carefully support them by holding the pieces while younger children learn to use the tools to fix and build their designs.

Children develop good manipulative skills using small muscle groups. They learn to use tools safely for cutting fruits at snack time and use tools, such as screwdrivers and spanners in construction. They learn to do up zips, poppers and buttons on their clothes, as well as in activities.

Children benefit from visiting local facilities. This helps to support their exploration skills and encourages further experiences within all areas of learning. The childminder plans these experiences with children's individual learning and development in mind. For example, children explore beaches, comparing the shells that they find.

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

- The childminder successfully helps children to learn about keeping themselves safe. Children confidently learn to carry and cut with knives, selecting them for themselves to prepare their snack. For example, children cut up apples, learning to use a sawing action, carefully placing their fingers in a safe area to prevent accidents.
- The childminder promotes children's understanding of healthy eating effectively. Children remember to wash their hands before snack time. They select their own snacks from their own fridge, wash the fruit and cut it themselves. They decide how much of the food they want to eat. The childminder sensitively supports their understanding of portions, talking to them about how big a piece of cheese is suitable for their appetite. They all eat together, enjoying the social experience of preparing their own snacks and eating as a group. They work as a team to clear up afterwards, learning to wash their plates, knives and chopping boards.
- The childminder provides a good balance of adult-led and child-initiated play. However, the childminder makes decisions for children during some adult-led

experiences. She takes the lead and, sometimes, answers for children. The childminder has a clear knowledge of how each child prefers to learn and provides planned activities to support their next stages of learning. However, some adult-led activities do not always promote the areas for individual children's development, such as making choices for themselves and creative imaginations.

- The childminder provides good support for children's speech and language skills. The childminder emphasizes sounds, particularly for children who find some sounds difficult to produce. She works closely with parents and other professionals to close the gap in children's language development. She increases children's vocabulary throughout the day, through play and general conversation. Children show their increased confidence at using these new words. For example, children explore sounds and words when describing dinosaurs when completing a dinosaur puzzle.
- Children show expressive imaginations, using dinosaurs to act out their play together, making sounds and noises of what they think dinosaurs sound like. They explore the natural world, looking at bugs, collecting eggs from the chickens and using natural materials, such as food, sand and water for play.
- The childminder provides children with a clean and safe environment for their play. They confidently explore and extend their learning, making choices from a large range of suitable resources.
- Parents make positive comments about the care their children receive from the childminder. They appreciate the ongoing care and attention to detail, especially throughout the difficult times of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. They comment about the extreme care towards children's hygiene and good health. They know children benefit from the additional experiences they receive from regular outings.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a clear knowledge of up-to-date procedures to keep children safe. She understands her responsibility to recognise any concerns about children in her care. The childminder attends regular training and researches any new regulations regarding the safety and welfare of children. She uses her previous professional experiences to transfer safeguarding skills successfully to her childminding service. Children play in a safe and secure environment, where changes are made to promote independent play. The childminder plans outings carefully, risk assessing any hazards that she identifies. She is aware of children's physical limitations and challenges, setting boundaries to promote their safety.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- use adult-led activities more effectively to help further support individual children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY557454
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10175174
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	2 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2018. She lives in Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent. The childminder provides care Monday to Friday all day and for most of the year, with the exception of bank holidays and planned family holidays. The childminder provides funded places for two-, three- and four-year-olds.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Claire Parnell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the setting and has taken that into account in the evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder and discussed the findings.
- Children spoke to the inspector about their play and their interests.
- The childminder and the inspector carried out a learning walk to discuss the curriculum offered.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled the childminder's documentation, including the suitability checks for herself and members of her household.

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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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