

Childminder report

Inspection date: 10 May 2022

Overall effectiveness	Good
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The quality of education	Good
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Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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Personal development	Good
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Leadership and management	Good
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are content, happy and confident in the childminder's care. They are familiar with their surroundings inside and outside. They have close and warm bonds with the childminder, who shows affection towards the children in his care. The children laugh openly with the childminder, which shows that they feel safe and secure in his care.

Children develop close friendships with their peers. They show kindness through sharing activities and taking turns. They are aware of the needs of younger children and encourage them to take part in their play.

Children thoroughly enjoy physical play outdoors. Children learn to keep themselves safe. The childminder is mindful regarding children's safety and carefully supervises children of different ages and abilities during group games. For example, older children learn that younger children need help going up and down the steps in the garden so that they can join in with physical ball games.

Children are making good progress and take part in play that promotes all areas of learning. They are eager to participate in group activities and are encouraged to question and show curiosity in their play.

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

- The childminder knows the children well and carefully considers the levels of learning for each child. He knows their interests and how each child likes to learn. However, the play is mainly adult directed as children make limited choices for themselves. Therefore, children have few opportunities to lead their own play.
- Children have a good understanding about the importance of healthy lifestyles. They talk openly about what is healthy to eat. They use role play well to demonstrate their understanding of healthy foods as they make a variety of meals for others. The childminder incorporates fresh herbs into their play to entice sensory play. Younger children confidently explore the smell and taste of the herbs, while older children add the herbs to the play food to provide healthy options for their pretend meals.
- The childminder talks constantly with the children. He introduces new words during their play and uses expression and elaboration during story times to support their interest in the books and stories. Children listen intently to what he has to say. However, on some occasions, children are not given enough time to absorb what the childminder is asking them, to enable them to answer his questions.
- The childminder helps children to recall previous experiences and to share these

experiences with their friends. They excitedly talk about places they have been and the places they are going to. The childminder understands the importance of giving children enriching experiences they may not have at home.

- Children learn about personal care through daily routines. They are reminded to wipe their nose, either independently or with help. They immediately put the tissues in the bin and go to the sink to wash their hands. Children understand that they must wash their hands after outside play, before meals and after toileting, to support their physical well-being. The childminder reminds children to use the toilet before they play outside, so that they can enjoy their time without disruptions.
- The childminder has positive partnerships with parents. He provides written, electronic and verbal information for parents on a regular basis. He discusses children's ongoing needs every day. Well-thought-out plans are in place for children who stay overnight. Their night-time routines are carefully considered and children are given privacy and thoughtful care at bedtime.
- The childminder develops good relationships with other professionals to provide a consistent approach to children's learning and care. He works with a range of professionals to support children's individual needs and to promote their transition to their next place for learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a clear understanding of his responsibility to protect children from harm and to keep them safe. He has attended up-to-date training. He knows the signs and symptoms to look for with regard to child protection. Children play in a safe and secure environment. The childminder adapts the play space to encourage children of all ages to explore it safely. The childminder supervises children well when on outings to local facilities to help to extend their experiences. For example, he takes children on a 'bear hunt' in local parks.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- provide a more balanced approach to children's play which allows them to lead their own play as well as take part in play that is guided by adults
- give children time to listen to instructions to enable them to carry them out to their satisfaction.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY279087
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10228348
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	0 to 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	16
Date of previous inspection	9 November 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2000 and lives in Allington, near Maidstone, Kent. He operates all year round from 7am to 7pm. Monday to Friday. The childminder is also registered to offer overnight care. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 3. He provides funded early years education for two-, three- and four-year-old children. The childminder works with his wife, who is a co-childminder.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Claire Parnell

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed how he ensures that they are safe and suitable.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about his intentions for children's learning.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing while with the childminder.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided, indoors and outdoors, and assessed the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke to parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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