

Childminder report

Inspection date: 23 May 2022

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is good

Children are exceptionally happy, confident and secure in the childminder's home. The childminder provides an incredibly nurturing, caring and welcoming environment and approach. Children develop an excellent sense of belonging. For example, each child takes pride in decorating their own wooden spoon to represent their attendance and they thoroughly enjoy discussing photos displayed of their own families and special events.

Children have excellent opportunities to recognise, value and share their own family backgrounds and explore the similarities and differences between themselves and others. For example, the childminder provides an all-encompassing range of positive images, books and resources, inviting children's curiosity and discussions.

Children benefit from an array of exciting learning experiences to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. For instance, children visit the library, museums, zoos, farms and local childminder groups. Children become absorbed in their play and their behaviour is exemplary. The children know the childminder's expectations and are exceptionally kind and caring toward one another.

Children show determination and the childminder is highly effective in supporting children to have a can-do attitude. For example, they keep trying until they succeed in grasping toy insects from the mud and transporting them with tweezers, practising their pincer grip.

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

- The childminder is an excellent role model. She interacts positively with children and promotes good manners. As a result, children listen intently and respond attentively. They demonstrate their impressive independence and self-care skills as they put on their coats and shoes, know how and when to thoroughly wash their hands and remember to turn off the lights as they leave the bathroom. The childminder has meticulously planned the playroom to aid the children's independence skills. For example, resources, displays and coat pegs are at the children's level. Children are very well prepared for the next stage in their learning and move on to school.
- The childminder gathers a good range of information from parents about what children already know and can do when they start. She uses this to consolidate and build quickly on their existing knowledge and skills. The childminder is aware of where children are in their development. She observes them closely and identifies what they need to learn next. Her effective planning for children's ongoing learning helps to support the good progress they make.

- The childminder effectively teaches children about the factors contributing to a healthy lifestyle. Children demonstrate a considerable understanding of the importance of healthy eating and the foods that are good for them. They talk about nutrition and how good food contributes to growth.
- The childminder supports children's early communication skills well. For example, she clearly emphasises key words within her interactions, introduces new vocabulary and provides children with a narrative during their play and exploration. This helps to support children's understanding and speaking. However, on occasions, she asks the children several questions without giving them sufficient time to think and respond.
- Children develop a love of reading as they enjoy story time. The childminder enthusiastically reads 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. Children show great interest in books, they look at pictures and turn the pages correctly. The children are included in telling the familiar story and engage in conversations about the illustrations. These opportunities help children to develop their early literacy skills.
- Parents' written comments are exceedingly complimentary about the quality of care and learning at the setting. Parents value the childminder's experience and advice and her ability to teach the children new things. The childminder works well with parents. She offers them extensive feedback about their children's progress. She shares the activities that children enjoy and the next steps in their learning. This helps parents to support children's development at home.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to her work. She works closely with her assistants and they regularly review their practice and identify areas they want to strengthen further. However, she has not focused professional development to precisely extend the quality of education to a higher level.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has an exceptionally sound understanding of her role in keeping children safe. The childminder and her assistants recently completed training and research to ensure they have a secure knowledge of current practice and the signs and behaviours that may cause concern regarding children's well-being. The childminder is rigorous in keeping secure records. She maintains an exceptional understanding of the procedures to follow should she need to report concerns about the welfare of a child. This includes wider aspects of child protection.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- ensure younger children have enough time to think and respond to the

questions they are asked, to help improve their learning

- focus professional development opportunities more precisely to extend the quality of education to a higher level.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY424734
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10228563
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	1 to 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	19
Date of previous inspection	22 September 2016

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2011 and lives in Minster on Sea, in Sheerness, Kent. She cares for children between the hours of 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday, all year round. The childminder, at times, works with an assistant. The childminder receives funding to provide free early years education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the setting received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the provider and has taken that into account in her evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at various points throughout the visit.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback.
- The inspector held a discussion with the childminder to understand how the early years provision and curriculum are organised.
- The inspector observed the childminder to assess the quality of education.

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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