

Childminder report

Inspection date: 24 February 2023

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 happy, confident and secure in the childminder's home. They play well together, demonstrating care and concern for their friends. For example, older children help the younger ones to find their coats and boots. Children thoroughly enjoy being involved in tasks, such as wiping the table clean before lunch and preparing snacks. Children are motivated and eagerly anticipate what activities they are going to do next.

Children have lots of fun in the childminder's well-resourced and carefully organised gardens. They develop good physical skills, such as safely navigating steps with confidence, throwing balls and operating push along vehicles. Children benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise. They visit local play parks, beaches and enjoy regular woodland walks. Children love exploring the surrounding natural environments and learn about the world around them.

Children learn to value, nurture and care for living things. For instance, they have successfully planted and grown tomatoes and cucumbers in the childminder's garden. Children are very careful and gentle with a caterpillar that they discover among their collected natural materials. The childminder and assistants praise children in consistent and meaningful ways, that increase their self-esteem and emotional well-being.

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

- The childminder is passionate and genuinely cares for every child. The childminder and her assistants get to know children and their families very well and offer a positive settling-in process. The childminder keeps parents informed about what their children are learning, the progress they make and what they need to learn next. Feedback from parents is very complimentary. They comment that their children are delighted to come to the childminder's house and speak highly of the support and guidance that they receive.
- The childminder and her assistants observe and assess children continually. They use this information successfully to plan for children's learning. The childminder and assistants organise activities that will build on children's interests and next steps in learning and development. Overall, children are provided with a good mixture of play and learning opportunities across the curriculum. However, sometimes they do not extend older children's mathematical understanding and skills further.
- The childminder effectively supports children's early literacy skills. Children self-select from a wide range of books to either look at independently or share with adults and their friends. Children have plenty of opportunities to draw and practise their early writing skills.

- The childminder and her assistants support children's early communication skills well. They clearly emphasise key words within their interactions, introduce new vocabulary, and model the correct pronunciation of words. This helps support children's understanding and speaking skills.
- Behaviour is generally very good. Children take turns and share resources well. They have a good understanding of the childminder's expectations. The childminder and her assistants engage in clear conversations with the children about the routine of the day. Children are well prepared for what is happening next.
- The childminder and her assistants regularly evaluate the provision. They identify the strengths and aspects they would like to improve. For instance, they have made significant changes to the outdoor area to provide children with a wide range of opportunities to explore nature and play in the fresh air.
- Children develop good independence. They learn to thoroughly wash their own hands and put on their wellies and coats ready to go outside. The childminder and her assistants provide children with the confidence to have a go, persevere and develop the resilience they need to succeed with future learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder and her assistants have a thorough understanding of child protection. They know how to keep children safe. They know who to contact and what to do if they have concerns about children's welfare or think a child may be at risk of harm. The childminder and her assistants are confident with the processes to follow if they have concerns about each other's conduct. The childminder ensures she and her assistants complete all statutory training and she is very clear on her responsibility to ensure her assistants are suitably checked.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen interactions to enhance and extend on children's learning even further during planned and spontaneous play experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY399567
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10276259
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 8
Total number of places	9
Number of children on roll	39
Date of previous inspection	7 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Woodnesborough, near Sandwich, Kent. She provides care from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, for most of the year. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. She employs three assistants. The childminder and one assistant hold a relevant early years qualification at level 3 and one assistant is a qualified teacher.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

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 provider.
- The childminder showed the inspector around her home to understand how the early years provision and the curriculum are organised.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder, assistants and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector invited the childminder to carry out a joint observation activity and together evaluated the children's learning during a planned activity.
- A sample of documents was reviewed by the inspector, including the safeguarding children policy and complaints policy.
- Parents' views were taken account of by the inspector.

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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