

Childminder report

Inspection date: 10 August 2023

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

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and homely childcare environment. She has developed close and affectionate relationships with the children, who clearly enjoy spending time with her. Children confidently seek out the childminder for cuddles and reassurance, and this helps to support their emotional well-being and self-confidence. Children show a strong sense of belonging, confidently choosing activities from the wide range on offer.

Children enjoy playing and exploring in the childminder's garden. They balance on scooters, pedal bicycles and throw and catch balls. They help to plant, nurture and harvest soft fruits such as blackberries. Through guidance from the childminder, they know not to pick the red berries as they are not yet ripe. This develops their knowledge further and allows them to keep themselves safe. These experiences help children to gain an understanding of where fruit comes from and promote children's physical development.

The childminder has high expectations for children's behaviour. Children learn to share, take turns and be kind to each other. They respond extremely well to the childminder's calm manner and positive attitude and are developing good levels of independence. They learn to manage their own self-care routines and confidently put on boots ready for garden play. The childminder gives children time to do things for themselves and practise new skills during daily routines.

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

- The childminder demonstrates a genuine enjoyment of working with young children. She observes children at play and uses her findings to plan activities to support their ongoing progress. For example, she adds further carriages to train sets to help engage children even further. This helps children to stay focused for long periods of time because the activity interests them.
- The childminder knows the children extremely well. She uses information gained from their parents to talk to children about familiar events and celebrates these, for example when children go on holiday and visit relatives. This gives children opportunities to celebrate their uniqueness and develop an understanding of each other.
- The childminder supports children's communication skills well. As children explore dough, she introduces phrases such as 'squish and squash' and 'pull and push' as they manipulate the dough, and she asks them to name the different shapes created. This activity also helps children to develop strength in their fingers and hands in readiness for holding a pencil to write or cutting with scissors.
- Children develop a love of books. The childminder uses her knowledge of

children's interests. For example, by reading stories about trains and goods being transported, she successfully captivates the interest of all children. They listen intently and join in with familiar phrases. This fully engages children in the reading experience, supporting their literacy skills.

- Children's mathematical skills are well supported. They are encouraged to develop their counting skills as they play. For example, they count slices of fruit such as banana and strawberries at snack times. They count the strokes of a brush when painting and when connecting foam number puzzles together.
- The childminder teaches children the importance of good hygiene and well-being. For example, children are familiar with daily routines and know to wash their hands at mealtimes and when returning from the garden. Planned activities help children develop an understanding of the importance of taking care of their teeth. Parents comment very positively on the range of healthy and nutritious snacks and meals provided.
- The childminder understands the importance of continuing to develop her skills and knowledge. She works in close partnership with other professionals to share ideas about good practice. The childminder uses her knowledge gained to support children's emotional needs and communication and language skills.
- Parents speak highly of the childminder. They share positive comments about the quality of care their children receive. Parents enjoy receiving regular updates regarding their child's development and welcome ideas on how they can continue their children's learning at home. However, the childminder does not always work in partnership with other settings that children attend to ensure continuity for their future learning.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

The childminder has a good knowledge of the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. She completes regular training to keep her knowledge up to date. She recognises the signs and symptoms of abuse and who to report them to. The childminder knows the procedures to follow should an allegation be made against herself or a household member. She knows to notify Ofsted of any new adults living in the home so suitability checks can be carried out. The childminder conducts thorough risk assessments to help ensure the safety of the children. Children are gently reminded to put away toys to keep the environment safe.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

- strengthen relationships with other settings that children attend to provide continuity in their learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2636360
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10295679
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 2
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 2021 and lives in Edenbridge, Kent. She operates all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays. The childminder holds a level 3 childcare qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Janet Thouless

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 childminder.
- The inspector and childminder completed a learning walk around the home to understand how the early years provision and curriculum are being organised.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and observed her interactions with the children. The inspector spoke to children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled the childminder's documents. These included evidence of child protection procedures, ongoing suitability and training opportunities.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector through verbal and written feedback.

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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