

Childminder report

Inspection date:

17 September 2025

Overall effectiveness

Outstanding

The quality of education

Outstanding

Behaviour and attitudes

Outstanding

Personal development

Outstanding

Leadership and management

Outstanding

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Outstanding

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is outstanding

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the nurturing and attentive childminder and any assistants she works with. She has a deep-rooted knowledge and understanding of how children learn and provides them with rich and inspiring learning environments, indoors and outdoors. Children show that they feel very safe and secure in the childminder's home. The childminder embraces children into her warm and affectionate care, and they positively flourish. They develop close and trusting bonds with her and make exceptional progress in this extremely calm and supportive environment. They are extremely well prepared for future learning.

The childminder's commitment and dedication to families help to provide children with an exceptionally secure start in life. A well-planned and individual settling-in period means children leave parents with ease, and the transition from home to the childminder is seamless. As a result of the high-quality care provided, children feel valued, listened to and respected. This helps them become confident and motivated learners. The childminder is a calm and reassuring role model. She has high expectations for children, who understand the routines and expectations. Behaviour is exemplary.

Children benefit from a highly ambitious and challenging curriculum. They enthusiastically take part in learning opportunities and make excellent progress in all areas. They are consistently engaged in high-quality interactions to increase their vocabulary and understanding of the world around them. Children are full of confidence and resilience, show a high level of independence and have great self-esteem.

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

- The childminder's curriculum is broad and varied. It is tailored to children's individual needs and gives them many opportunities to explore and discover. The outdoor space is rich and enchanting. Children nurture fruit and herbs, observe wildlife in the wildflower patches and use their imagination in the woodland area. They enjoy a wide range of physical challenges and create in the large sandpit and mud kitchen. The childminder also takes children on visits to the local pinetum and forest, castles and protected national sites to extend their learning further.
- Children are given ample time to think for themselves, to make choices in their play and to be imaginative and creative. Children are inspired and giggle as they dress up, play musical instruments and taste the sweet strawberries they have grown. They are accompanied in their exploration by the playful and engaging childminder, who sings with them and relishes their pure enjoyment.
- Children of all ages display consistently high levels of independence. They

anticipate the setting's routines, displaying a sense of comfort in knowing what is next. Children cooperate well with care routines and are learning to understand the importance of keeping themselves clean. For example, even the youngest children demonstrate impressive skills using cutlery with their meals. All children clean their own faces after lunch. Older children take pride in collecting the dirty wipes to be washed. Similarly, children gain an admirable understanding of the importance of eating healthy food and making lifestyle choices.

- The childminder effortlessly supports children alongside their chosen play to consistently provide challenges and scaffold their learning. She is highly effective in supporting children's language and communication skills. She consistently engages children in impressive dialogue and introduces new language both in English and in children's languages spoken at home.
- The dedicated and passionate childminder very successfully shares her wealth of knowledge and skills with her co-minder, any assistants she works with and a large community of other childminders. She has very detailed methods in place to consistently reflect on the environment and education she offers. This ensures that all staff continually build on what they know to provide exceptional support for children.
- Parents speak highly of the reliable and professional childminder. They say she has had a profoundly positive impact, through the additional support they have received during key milestones such as weaning. The childminder gives parents access to a book library, offering an extremely wide range of parental guidance for parents to borrow. Parents comment that they have no hesitation leaving their children in the childminder's safe and loving hands. They believe that she offers immense patience and support, exceptional educational experiences and that nothing is ever too much trouble.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY415001
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10408371
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 7
Total number of places	9
Number of children on roll	14
Date of previous inspection	31 January 2020

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2010 and lives in rural Marden, in Tonbridge, Kent. The childminder works with another childminder and an assistant. The childminder cares for children from Monday to Friday, from 8am to 6pm. She is registered to provide funded education for children between the ages of one and four years. The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kimberley Luckham

Inspection activities

- The inspector spoke with the childminder, any assistants and the children during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of the curriculum during activities and assessed the impact this has on the children's learning.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- The inspector read feedback from parents during the inspection and took account of their views.

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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