

Childminder report

Inspection date	29 April 2019
Previous inspection date	20 January 2016

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection: Previous inspection:	Outstanding Good	1 2
Effectiveness of leadership and management		Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Outstanding	1
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Outstanding	1
Outcomes for children		Outstanding	1

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is outstanding

- The childminder is an exceptionally dedicated, calm and patient practitioner. Children benefit enormously from her undivided and focused attention as they build secure attachments with her. Children's emotional well-being is at the heart of her practice. She is intuitive and highly skilled at recognising how to meet children's personal and emotional needs sensitively and effectively.
- The childminder establishes extremely effective partnership working. She works exceptionally well at creating highly successful partnerships with parents, professionals and schools that children attend. This helps to provide exceptional levels of continuity of care and learning.
- The childminder makes highly detailed assessments of what children can do. She uses this knowledge to plan extremely stimulating activities to help children make excellent progress in their learning. Young children develop excellent skills, such as independence in self-care, to support them in their future learning.
- The childminder consistently strives to maintain and build on her excellent practice. She actively seeks views from children, parents and other professionals in order to evaluate her environment, practice and curriculum. Children are motivated and enthused by rich and well-planned activities.
- Children enjoy an excellent variety of stimulating visits in their local community. For instance, the childminder provides regular opportunities for them to socialise in larger groups and make new friendships. Children have superb opportunities to learn about the world around them. For example, children are excited to watch caterpillars begin their transformation into butterflies.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- continue to access a wide range of professional development opportunities to maintain outstanding practice.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all areas of the premises used for childminding.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector took parents' views into account by reading their written comments.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation, including children's records, policies and procedures.

Inspector
Alison Martin

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management is outstanding

The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of the procedures to follow if she has any concerns about the welfare of children. She has excellent policies in place to help keep children extremely safe. For example, robust risk assessments are in place for trips away from the home. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder identifies appropriate training courses to develop her teaching skills. For instance, recent training has enhanced her processes for tracking children's learning. She plans to continue studying for higher-level qualifications in early years education to improve her already excellent knowledge. She skilfully supports children's transitions with other settings, such as school or nursery. She shares a wealth of important information about children's learning and provides excellent communication between them and parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding

The childminder demonstrates superb teaching skills. She observes and recognises children's interests and shares their excitement in the world around them. She makes excellent use of planned and spontaneous opportunities to extend their learning. For example, by noticing patterns in the way children play, she expertly introduces them to new ideas and concepts. Young children develop their physical skills in a safe, exciting environment. For instance, they are encouraged to pull themselves onto play equipment and move their bodies in new ways. They are fascinated to investigate direction and speed, such as rolling a ball from person to person or watching it roll down the slide. The childminder's excellent interactions support children to learn new words and develop their communication and listening skills. For example, she brings their attention to environmental sounds, such as birds singing or water splashing, and describes what they hear eloquently. Very young children are absorbed with playful activities that encourage their interest in mathematics, such as when they hide and count pine cones in the park.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are outstanding

Children thrive and flourish in the care of the calm and loving childminder. She is an excellent role model for kind and considerate behaviour. For example, she provides plenty of cuddles to comfort children who are new to the setting. She patiently waits before stepping in, to allow children time to have a go and persevere when they encounter new experiences. She encourages children to make healthy choices and makes excellent use of the local environment to provide them with plenty of fresh air and exercise. Children learn about differences and similarities as they compare their lives to others in the world. For instance, they love learning about Dutch lives and customs during a project about the Netherlands.

Outcomes for children are outstanding

Children make excellent progress from their starting points. Children practise pre-writing skills as they make patterns during messy play or use chalk on the blackboard. They persevere with challenges, such as climbing up the slide. Young children make choices about where and how they want to play. They are fascinated with small details, such as a spider outside, or the sound of small stones dropping into the water tray. Children are extremely well prepared for starting school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY429911
Local authority	Kent
Inspection number	10074826
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 7
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	20 January 2016

The childminder registered in 2011. She lives in Maidstone, Kent. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder has a childcare qualification at level 3 and offers funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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