

Inspection date	18 March 2015
Previous inspection date	20 January 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Good	2
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Good	2
The setting meets legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is good

- The childminder provides a relaxed and homely environment where children have positive relationships with each other.
- The childminder offers a broad range of activities that motivates and challenges the children. Good teaching means that children enjoy learning through play.
- The childminder uses observations and assessments successfully to plan for children's next steps so that they make good progress in their learning.
- The childminder provides nutritious snacks and meals and teaches children about good hygiene practices.
- The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to working with parents and other agencies to ensure good outcomes for children.
- The childminder has a range of policies and procedures to ensure children remain safe in her care.
- The childminder and her assistant meet regularly to review their practices and to discuss areas for improvement. This supports good outcomes for children and families.

It is not yet outstanding because:

- The childminder does not maximise the use of her immediate outdoor area to benefit children's learning and development

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- Review the use of the courtyard space to ensure it appeals to children to encourage them to play outside.
- Extend opportunities for children to choose what they would like to play with outside.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and her assistant interacting with the children.
- The inspector observed a range of activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector looked at feedback from the parents.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder about the children's development and looked at observation and planning records.

Inspector

Caroline Gibbons

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The childminder and her assistant know the children well and plan a range of rich and varied activities and outings that motivate and challenge them. For example, during the inspection, the children all enjoyed exploring a tray of dried cereal and hay with vehicles and animals. They related this to recent visits to the farm and to see the trains. All children make good progress because the childminder uses observation and assessment successfully to plan next steps for them. Children are confident to select resources independently as well as seeking support when needed. For example, they help themselves to paper and scissors and enjoy the process of cutting and colouring. The childminder uses skilful questioning to support children's communication, and children learn new vocabulary by looking at posters and books and singing songs.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

The children take part in a range of outdoor activities as well as using the childminders garden when it is safe. For example, children enjoy growing activities, sensory play and visits to farms and parks. The children also take part in outings to a gymnastics group and a toddler group which supports their physical and social development further. However, children are not always able to choose the resources they use outside. Children are reminded to be gentle with the pets as, well as being involved in looking after them which promotes their understanding of how to care for animals. The childminder encourages children to be independent in their self-care. She has effective safeguarding practices and regular risk assessment ensures that children remain safe in the setting and on outings. Children behave well because the childminder and assistant are good role models and praise positive behaviour.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is good

The childminder is committed to providing a high quality provision for children and their parents. She evaluates her practice well and seeks feedback from her assistant and parents to support this. Children progress well because the childminder has a robust system for observation and assessment. Any gaps in learning are identified quickly and strategies to support these are included in the weekly planning. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to working in partnership with other agencies and offers extra support to families when required. The childminder ensures that parents are kept well informed about their children and provides newsletters that offer information about the setting. The childminder is highly qualified and uses her expert knowledge to develop her setting further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY376585
Local authority	Medway Towns
Inspection number	829481
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	16
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 January 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2008 and lives in Chatham, Kent. The childminder works with an assistant.

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