

Inspection date	24/09/2013
Previous inspection date	16/03/2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	4
	Previous inspection:	3
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		4

The quality and standards of the early years provision

This provision is inadequate

- The childminder does not have a secure knowledge and understanding of the importance of meeting all requirements of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Therefore, children's welfare is compromised.
- The childminder's procedures for safeguarding children do not take into account the use of mobile phones and cameras within the provision to ensure children's welfare is not compromised.
- Access to some resources and availability of clear floor space to play is not consistently maximised. Therefore children cannot easily self-select or initiate their own play comfortably.
- The childminder does not keep robust records of children's attendance and risk assessments are not always effectively implemented. As a result of these breaches of safeguarding and welfare requirements, there is an impact on children's safety and well-being.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder does understand how children learn and develop and keeps meaningful and informed documents of their progress. Children are able to participate in fun and interesting activities outside of the home as a variety of outings are regularly organised.

Information about this inspection

Inspections of registered early years provision are:

- scheduled at least once in every inspection cycle – the current cycle ends on 31 July 2016
- scheduled more frequently where Ofsted identifies a need to do so, for example where provision was previously judged inadequate
- brought forward in the inspection cycle where Ofsted has received information that suggests the provision may not be meeting the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage or where assessment of the provision identifies a need for early inspection
- prioritised where we have received information that the provision is not meeting the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and which suggests children may not be safe
- scheduled at the completion of an investigation into failure to comply with the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The provision is also registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. This report includes a judgment about compliance with the requirements of that register.

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed with the childminder how she delivers the educational programmes for children.
- The inspector examined and discussed policies and documents that the childminder uses when caring for children.
- The inspector discussed how the childminder contributes to the well-being of children, and her care practices.
- The inspector discussed aspects of suitability and risk assessment and the childminder's understanding of child protection procedures.

Inspector

Lynn A Hartigan

Full Report

Information about the setting

The childminder was registered in 2004 and is on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her husband and four children aged 12, 16, 17 years and one adult son in a house in Colchester, Essex. The whole of the premises and the rear garden are used for childminding. The family has birds, hamsters and guinea pigs as pets. The childminder attends a toddler group and activities at the local children's centre. She visits the shops and park on a regular basis.

The childminder operates all year round from 7.30am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. Occasional overnight care is also offered. There are currently 11 children on roll in the early years age group. At the time of inspection there were no children present in the early years age group. The childminder is a member of the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure care is offered to no more than a maximum of six children under the age of eight years; of these six children, a maximum of three may be early years children. Ensure that care provided for older children does not adversely affect the care of children receiving early years provision
- keep a record of the names of the children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance
- review risk assessments regularly, this specifically refers to the storage of household items and laundry so that the use of clear floor space is not restricted and children can play safely.

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

- ensure opportunities are in place for children to easily access toys and resources so that they can independently initiate their own play and learning.

Inspection judgements

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend

The childminder is able to demonstrate her understanding of children's development and how they learn. Some effective assessments of children's abilities when they first attend are in place. Ongoing observations identify children's next steps in learning. Photographs are used to evidence children at play and records show that children make sufficient progress. The childminder is aware of the prime and specific areas of learning and the requirement to complete a progress report for children aged two years.

A reasonable selection of resources are available to children to support them in all areas of learning. However, they are not always easily accessible, which restricts children's independence, self-selection and opportunities to initiate their own play and learning. The garden is well-resourced and used throughout the year. Children receive fresh air and exercise daily and are able to develop their physical skills as they use the equipment in the garden. Children are also able to climb and jump as the childminder organises trips to soft play areas.

Outings to the local park, beach, forest, zoo and cinema are arranged and children enjoy their time socialising with their friends. Children's creativity is supported as they have fun using arts and craft materials and participate in cooking activities. Parents are able to participate in their children's learning as this is positively encouraged by the childminder.

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

The childminder ensures children feel welcome in her care. Parents are offered sufficient opportunities to settle their children and information regarding their children's routine, likes and dislikes are recorded. This contributes to a smooth transition from home into her care. As a result children are happy and settle quickly. Resources are stored in the conservatory. However, poor organisation of the rooms where children play and number of children attending means there is limited clear floor space. This compromises children's safety and well-being.

Risk assessments are completed. However, these are generic and not particular to the childminder's home, and are not regularly reviewed to ensure they are meaningful. For example, they do not reflect the numbers of children currently being cared for, or identify the need to ensure the organisation of the rooms supports children's safety and well-being. Children take part in evacuation of the premises so that they know how to respond in the event of an emergency. The childminder is knowledgeable about children's dietary requirements and allergies and is able to provide meals if requested. Snacks and drinks are readily available when needed.

Children make some progress in developing skills they need for later life. For example, children are encouraged to take care of their own personal needs. They use the bathroom

and know to wash their hands. They play well together and older children are caring and supportive of the younger children.

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

The childminder does not have a secure knowledge of the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage or the requirements of the Childcare Register. This inspection was brought forward as it was reported the childminder was caring for too many children aged under eight years. The inspection found that she does occasionally care for too many children aged under eight years. This has a significant impact on children's welfare and safety. For example, public liability insurance is void on these occasions. In addition, robust and accurate attendance records, which includes children cared for overnight, are not kept.

The childminder has completed level 2 safeguarding training and is able to demonstrate her understanding of child protection issues and procedures to follow should she have a concern regarding a child in her care. However, consideration has not been given in the safeguarding procedures, to the use of cameras and mobile phones within the home. Therefore children's welfare is compromised. The childminder has some risk assessments in place and is able to demonstrate how she manages collection of children from school. However, younger children's safety on occasions, due to the required adult to child ratios not being met, is compromised.

The childminder demonstrates a generally positive attitude to improving her provision and has recently attended several training courses to support her knowledge of child development. Some recommendations made at the last inspection have been addressed. For example, assessment records and observations are now kept to inform future planning and support children's future learning. Resources to support children's understanding of diversity continue to develop. While a thorough process for self-evaluation is not yet fully embedded in practice, children do evaluate the activities and outings they have experienced and older children write their comments in a keepsake book for parents to view.

The childminder welcomes parents into the home and encourages positive working relationships. The childminder offers a flexible service to accommodate each family's needs. Some useful information is displayed within the home, such as the insurance policy, certificates and evacuation procedure. The childminder does have good links with the local primary school as she regularly drops off and collects children. The childminder has also established links with other early years providers so that she can support transitions, when the need arises.

The Childcare Register

The requirements for the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are

**Not Met
(with
actions)**

The requirements for the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are

**Not Met
(with
actions)**

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- keep a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- keep a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

What inspection judgements mean

Registered early years provision

Grade	Judgement	Description
Grade 1	Outstanding	Outstanding provision is highly effective in meeting the needs of all children exceptionally well. This ensures that children are very well prepared for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 2	Good	Good provision is effective in delivering provision that meets the needs of all children well. This ensures children are ready for the next stage of their learning.
Grade 3	Satisfactory	Satisfactory provision is performing less well than expectations in one or more of the key areas. It requires improvement in order to be good.
Grade 4	Inadequate	Provision that is inadequate requires significant improvement and/or enforcement action. The provision is failing to give children an acceptable standard of early years education and/or is not meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. It will be inspected again within 12 months of the date of this inspection.
Met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider continues to meet the requirements for registration.
Not met		The provision has no children on roll. The inspection judgement is that the provider does not meet the requirements for registration.

Inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted 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.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY276712
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	936158
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	14
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16/03/2011
Telephone number	

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Type of provision

For the purposes of this inspection the following definitions apply:

Full-time provision is that which operates for more than three hours. These are usually known as nurseries, nursery schools and pre-schools and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the higher fee for registration.

Sessional provision operates for more than two hours but does not exceed three hours in any one day. These are usually known as pre-schools, kindergartens or nursery schools

and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are registered on the Early Years Register and pay the lower fee for registration.

Childminders care for one or more children where individual children attend for a period of more than two hours in any one day. They operate from domestic premises, which are usually the childminder's own home. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Out of school provision may be sessional or full-time provision and is delivered before or after school and/or in the summer holidays. They are registered on the Early Years Register and must deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. Where children receive their Early Years Foundation Stage in school these providers do not have to deliver the learning and development requirements in full but should complement the experiences children receive in school.

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