

Inspection date	28 January 2015
Previous inspection date	8 May 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Observations and assessments to track children's progress in their learning and development are not yet embedded in the childminder's practice. As a result, children's next steps in learning are not always clearly identified or planned for to target their individual learning needs.
- Information sharing with parents is not fully effective when identifying children's starting points or discussing progress. The childminder has not completed the progress check for children between the ages of two to three years. Therefore, she has not provided parents with information about their child's progress in the prime areas of learning.
- The childminder has not attended recent training in first aid to ensure she has a robust knowledge of how to respond to children following an accident or incident.
- The childminder is not fully aware of the need to share her policy regarding the use of mobile telephones and cameras in relation to safeguarding children.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder has an appropriate understanding of how children learn. She provides activities and experiences that children generally enjoy.
- The childminder develops warm and positive relationships with children and supports them well in forming friendships with other children in her home. This enables children to feel safe, confident and happy in her care.
- The childminder has a suitable understanding of the signs of abuse and neglect. She is clear about the steps that she needs to take should she have a concern about a child in her care.
- The childminder forms positive partnership with parents and other settings to support children's continuity of care.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- develop the systems for planning, observation and assessment to accurately identify children's progress and use this information to ensure that activities are sufficiently challenging and are based on children's next steps in development, in order to support them to make the best possible progress
- implement the progress check for children aged between two and three years, to ensure a review of children's progress is made and a written summary of their development in the prime areas is provided for parents
- ensure that a paediatric first-aid certificate is obtained and a current certificate is maintained
- extend knowledge and understanding of safeguarding procedures, with particular regard to the use of mobile telephones and cameras and ensure parents are aware of the policy on the use of these in the setting.

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

- improve parent partnerships and encourage parents involvement in their child's learning during initial and ongoing assessments, by seeking detailed and comprehensive information about their child's learning at home
- develop a rigorous system for self-evaluation to clearly identify strengths and areas of practice for future development, to ensure continuous improvement that promotes the interests of children.

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

- ensure that an appropriate first-aid certificate is held (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that an appropriate first-aid certificate is held (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector checked evidence of qualifications and suitability of the childminder and household members aged over 16 years.

Inspector

Sharon Hennam-Dale

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The childminder provides children with an interesting range of toys and resources, including creative activities. Children have lots of opportunities to learn about how things work and happen. For example, children show pleasure and delight when they press buttons or lift flaps on activity toys. Children's language development is supported generally well by the childminder. They enjoy chatting with her and any questions that she asks are open-ended to promote conversation. However, children do not yet make the best possible progress, as the childminder's observation and assessment system is in its infancy. The childminder does not make effective use of guidance to accurately assess children's development or identify how to challenge them. She does not complete the progress check for children aged between two and three years of age. Monitoring is not yet sharply focused on ensuring all areas of learning are covered in sufficient breadth and depth. Consequently, children are not fully prepared for the move onto school.

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

The childminder has warm relationships with children. Information gathered from parents supports children to make a smooth transition into her care. However, this is mainly focused around their care needs. Therefore, children's initial assessments are not precise and accurate enough to support planning for their rapid progress. Children's independence is promoted effectively, for example, they can choose and select resources. The childminder understands the importance of working in partnership with others and takes positive steps to ensure that children are emotionally prepared for moving onto other settings and school. The childminder supports children to develop an understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and to manage their own self-care needs. She ensures fresh water is available and fruit is offered at snack times. She makes good use of her garden and the local park, in order to enable children to enjoy exercise. However, their good health is not fully promoted as the childminder does not hold a current first-aid certificate. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they learn how to cross the road safely and practise the fire drill.

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

The childminder has just returned to caring for children and has not updated her first-aid certificate in a timely manner. She has also not kept abreast of changes to the Statutory framework. Consequently, she does not meet all the requirements. For example, although, she is aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of abuse and knows what to do should she have any concerns, she has not updated her policy to include the safe use of mobile telephones or cameras. The childminder is aware to restrict the use of these devices and undertakes daily safety checks and risk assessments, so children are otherwise protected. The childminder has not implemented a rigorous and effective evaluation of her service, to fully assess her strengths and identify areas for improvement. As a result, there are currently no plans in place to drive improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	260357
Local authority	Stoke on Trent
Inspection number	871637
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 May 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2001 and lives in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The childminder holds an appropriate childcare qualification at level 3.

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