

Inspection date	12 February 2015
Previous inspection date	24 October 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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:

- The childminder does not regularly assess children's progress to provide an accurate picture of how well they are doing in relation to their starting points and their expected levels of development. As a result, the childminder does not always plan activities, which provide sufficient challenge for all children, so that they make good progress.
- The childminder does not understand the procedures to follow regarding the protection of children's data.
- The childminder does not use routines of the day effectively to promote children's independence and self-care skills.
- The childminder does not use self-evaluation effectively to continually improve her practice.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder understands child protection procedures, in line with the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, to protect children from harm.
- The childminder understands the importance of promoting the safety of the children in her care. She visually assesses her home to minimise risks to children, enabling them to use the setting safely.
- Children settle quickly into the childminder's home and demonstrate that they feel safe and secure.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use ongoing observations to assess how well children achieve in relation to their starting points and their expected levels of development, in order to accurately identify the next steps in children's learning and plan activities more tailored to their individual needs
- acquire an understanding of the legal responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1989 (DPA) to ensure that information relating to the children cared for is handled in a way that ensures confidentiality and privacy.

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

- encourage children to develop their independence skills during routines of the day, such as snack, mealtimes and after nappy changes
- improve the process of monitoring and self-evaluation to clearly identify future targets for the development of practice to improve outcomes for children.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the living room and the kitchen.
- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at records of children's learning and a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of all household members, qualifications of the childminder and the childminder's self-evaluation form.
- The inspector looked at written testimonials from parents.

Inspector

Karen Harris

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has a generally sound understanding of how young children learn and provides a suitable range of resources. Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are adequately occupied, as they choose what they want to do. The childminder observes children while they play. However, she does not consistently assess how well children achieve in relation to their starting points and their expected levels of development. This means that the childminder does not consistently plan and provide suitably challenging activities to meet children's individual needs. Therefore, children are not making the best possible progress. The childminder promotes children's communication and language skills well. She encourages children to count objects and name colours as they read age-appropriate books with her. She engages children in conversation and their vocabulary is developing appropriately. Consequently, in the main, children are developing the basic skills they need to be ready for school or their next stage of learning.

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

The childminder works with parents when children first start and encourages them to share what they know about their child. This means that children settle quickly and feel safe and secure in the childminder's care. The childminder talks to parents on a daily basis. This supports children's welfare and continuity of care. The childminder provides opportunities for children to socialise and cooperate with others at local toddler groups. She also helps young children to become familiar with other settings as she takes them to collect older children from nursery. This means that children's confidence is developing in new situations. The childminder is attentive to children's needs and changes their nappies promptly whenever needed. However, the childminder does not wipe children's hands after nappy changes to help them to learn about good hygiene routines from an early age. Also, during routines activities, such as snack and lunchtime, children have fewer opportunities to extend their independent and self-care skills further as they do not routinely pour their own drinks or help to prepare their own snack.

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

The childminder has an adequate understanding of the requirements of Early Years Foundation Stage. She has a suitable knowledge of child protection procedures and understands what to do should she have a concern about the welfare of a child in her care. The childminder holds a current paediatric first-aid certificate. She completes visual checks before children arrive each day, to maintain a safe environment for them to play in. However, the childminder is not fully aware of the procedures to follow regarding the protection of children's data, which is a legal requirement of the Early Years Register. The childminder gains parents' opinions on the quality of the service she provides, so that she can review the quality of her setting. However, her evaluations of her practice are not sufficiently focused on monitoring the educational programme she provides, to ensure that all children are further challenged to make good progress.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY101535
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	870723
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	24 October 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2002 and lives in Carlton Colville, Suffolk. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder can also provide overnight care.

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