

Inspection date	2 March 2015
Previous inspection date	8 March 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's system for observing and assessing children's learning is not robust enough to enable her to monitor and support their progress effectively.
- The childminder does not work in partnership with early years provisions that children attend to promote continuity in their learning and care.
- The childminder's process of self-evaluation is not effective to support her in improving the quality of her practice.

It has the following strengths

- Children benefit from a welcoming environment. They engage freely in activities while moving around, exploring the suitable range of resources available.
- The childminder takes appropriate steps to promote children's emotional and physical well-being. Therefore, children are settled and confident to explore their surroundings.
- The childminder has a suitable understanding of safeguarding issues, including the procedures for reporting concerns to support children's welfare needs.
- The childminder takes children on regular visits to local groups, where they engage in other activities that complement their learning experiences and benefit from socially mixing with other children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure consistency in assessing children's learning and use information gathered from assessments to help monitor children's progress and set clear learning goals.

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

- develop relationships with other early years provisions that children attend to promote continuous learning opportunities
- improve the arrangements for evaluating practices in order to identify and targets areas for future improvement.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed interactions between the childminder and children.
- The inspector engaged in discussions with the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection regarding her assessment practice, arrangements and partnerships.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including children's assessment records, planning and some of the childminder's written policies.
- The inspector toured areas of the home used for childminding.

Inspector

Samantha Smith

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 sufficient understanding of her role in promoting children's learning and development. She mostly plans suitable learning experiences to aid children in developing new skills for their future learning. She promotes children's language development by encouraging them to repeat words correctly and asking appropriate questions. However, she has not established suitable procedures for assessing children's learning. This means she is unable to monitor children's progress effectively from their starting points and plan for their next steps. The childminder has established suitable working partnerships with parents. She regularly exchanges information with them and encourages them to share what they know about their children. However, the childminder has not established links with other early years providers that children attend to promote continuity in meeting their learning and care needs.

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

The childminder creates a safe environment for children to play in and explore activities. However, due to gaps in effectively assessing children's learning, she is not able to make the best use of resources to extend their learning opportunities. The childminder has a suitable knowledge and understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements, which she implements well in her practice. She has taken appropriate steps to minimise potential hazards in her home and she continues to promote children's safety, particularly when taking them out on outings. The childminder promotes children's physical health by providing healthy snacks and regular access to drinks, as well as engaging them in daily physical activities. She offers children gentle guidance about safety while they play and she manages their behaviour appropriately for their ages. As a result, children show they generally feel safe and secure in her care.

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

Overall, the childminder sufficiently manages most aspects of her practice. However, she has not fully embedded her system for monitoring children's progress. Nevertheless, she attends regular training and generally uses this knowledge to reinforce some areas of her work. For example, the childminder has recently completed self-evaluation training and she is beginning to use this to reflect on her practice. However, she has not fully considered how to strengthen the quality of her provision to improve outcomes for children. Nevertheless, the childminder has taken steps to address most of the previous actions and recommendations from her last inspection.

Setting details

Unique reference number	133123
Local authority	Islington
Inspection number	842916
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1986. She lives in the London Borough of Islington.

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