

Inspection date

17 March 2015

Previous inspection date

23 June 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:

- Some potential risks are not fully identified and minimised, in order to consistently promote children's welfare.
- Some activities are not matched well enough to the very youngest children's individual needs. Furthermore, resources do not fully engage and motivate them. Consequently, they do not always make the best possible progress.
- Communication with other providers is not fully established, to ensure that there is a shared knowledge and understanding about children's learning and development.
- Children share a towel in the bathroom for drying their hands. This does not fully minimise the risk of cross-contamination or help children to understand good practice in relation to their personal hygiene.
- Systems for self-evaluation are not focussed precisely enough to improve the quality of the provision.

It has the following strengths

- Children behave well, given their ages and stages of development. They receive lots of praise and encouragement and are gently encouraged to share and take turns.
- The childminder and her assistant enhance children's enjoyment with their own enthusiasm.
- The childminder has a secure understanding of possible signs of abuse or neglect. She is confident with the procedures to follow, should such a child protection concern arise.
- Children develop secure attachments with adults, due to effective settling-in arrangements.
- Emphasis is placed on supporting children's social, physical and language skills. This supports their future move to nursery and school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- fully identify and minimise potential risks, by ensuring that appropriate equipment is consistently used to promote the safety of very young children when sitting at the kitchen table, and by ensuring that bottles of wine are stored out of reach
- improve the organisation and variety of toys, and the planning of activities, to ensure that these accurately match the youngest children's individual needs and consistently motivate and engage them
- ensure effective partnership working with other providers by exchanging information about children's learning and development, so that there is a shared and consistent approach to supporting their progress and achievements.

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

- review the arrangements for children drying their hands in the bathroom, in order to further promote children's physical well-being and enhance their understanding of healthy practices
- improve the system for self-evaluation, in order to identify weaknesses and ensure there is a clear and successful improvement plan that develops the quality of teaching and supports children's achievements.

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

- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children in their care (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health or safety of the children in their care (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and care routines in the lounge, kitchen/diner and garden.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder, her co-childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies, documentation, children's records and verification of suitability checks.
- The inspector took account of the information provided in pre-inspection letters from parents and parent surveys, and in feedback provided by parents on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Rachel Ayo

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a satisfactory range of activities to support children's learning. Children go on regular outings, enhancing their experiences as they learn about the wider world. However, some adult-led activities, such as dough play, are too challenging to support very young children's stages of development. Furthermore, the variety of general resources is not developed well enough, and is not accessible enough, to consistently motivate or engage them. In addition to this, there is a lack of natural media and materials that enables them to explore and investigate. Other age groups engage well with role-play resources and the dough. They explore and develop their ideas while using their imaginations. The childminder and her assistant adequately support children's learning. As children make a dough fruit basket, the childminder encourages them to count how many pieces of fruit they have. The childminder's assistant shows children how the rolling pin works and introduces different shapes into their learning.

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

Children are happy and at ease because there is a shared and consistent approach to meeting their individual needs through close consultation with parents. For example, prior to settling-in visits, parents share information about home routines and their child's uniqueness. Most risks are identified and minimised to promote children's welfare. However, although highchairs are available for very young children, as well as safety straps when using adult chairs, these are not consistently used. Furthermore, wine bottles are accessible to children because these are stored at low-level. However, the risks are minimised because children are closely supervised. Children's physical well-being is suitably promoted. They play outside daily, are provided with adequate meals and snacks and use hand gel before eating. However, children share a towel in the bathroom. This means that cross-contamination is not minimised and children are not learning about good practice in relation to their personal hygiene. Children enjoy helping to set up the table for lunch, which develops their early independence skills.

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

The childminder does not fully understand and implement some aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Although regular meetings are held to discuss practice, self-evaluation is not robust enough to identify weaknesses and precisely target areas for improvement. Furthermore, the childminder does not make use of training to extend her own, or her assistant's, knowledge of early years practice, which impacts on the continual development of the quality of the provision. The childminder suitably monitors what children are doing in their learning and some aspects of what they need to do next. Parents are appropriately informed about their children's care and learning through daily chats and newsletters. However, communication with other providers is less successful. This prevents the childminder from gaining a full picture of all of a child's achievements, in order to complement their learning fully.

Setting details

Unique reference number	303555
Local authority	Calderdale
Inspection number	871723
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	25
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	23 June 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1998 and lives in the Southowram of Halifax. She works with an assistant and her husband, who is also a registered childminder. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. The childminder operates all year round, from 7.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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