

Inspection date	23 March 2015
Previous inspection date	20 October 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Inadequate	4
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		Good	2
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 monitor children's achievements effectively in order to plan for their next steps in development. This means she does not ensure any gaps in their learning are closing.
- The childminder does not undertake fire drills regularly to ensure children know how to evacuate the premises in an emergency swiftly.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder builds positive relationships with the children. She is warm, caring and nurturing in her interactions with them and they have lots of fun.
- The childminder provides children with a broad variety of activities in the home and in the local community. She organises the environment with age appropriate toys and resources for children to use.
- The childminder has positive relationships with parents and professionals, which help to promote continuity in the children's care.
- The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of how to safeguard children. She knows the procedures to take if she has concerns for the welfare of a child in her care.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that children's progress is monitored in order to plan effectively for their next steps to ensure any gaps in their learning are closing.

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

- undertake the fire drill more regularly to ensure all children are aware of the action they must take to evacuate the premises swiftly.

Inspection activities

- The inspector toured the premises and reviewed the resources with the childminder.
- The inspector observed the children at play and the childminder's interactions.
- The inspector examined the children's records and other documentation.
- The inspector read comments from parents and considered these.
- The inspector reviewed and discussed the childminder's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Lynne Lewington

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 warm environment. Children undertake a variety of activities, which overall promote their learning. The childminder provides activities that build on children's interests. For example, children enjoy exploring a large box of shredded paper with a variety of items hidden inside. She sits at the children's level and asks questions, which encourage children to think and respond. She uses expression in her voice and face to communicate well. The childminder develops children's communication and language skills because she talks with children during their play. She observes children as they play. This helps to inform her understanding of their needs and progress. However, she does not use this information skilfully to ascertain children's next steps in learning and plan appropriately. She identifies some next steps but these are not always appropriate. This means that she does not use her observations to identify any gaps in children's learning effectively or plan specific activities to help children make continuous good progress.

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

The childminder gathers comprehensive information about children from their parents. This helps to ensure children receive the care and understanding they need to feel confident and secure. The childminder praises and encourages children as they play. This helps to build their self-esteem and confidence. A healthy lifestyle is encouraged during daily opportunities in the fresh air and exercise in the garden and visits to the park and local children's activities. The childminder encourages parents to provide healthy snacks and meals, and talks to children about the benefits of good food choices. Children learn about hygiene routines, which promote their good health. The childminder helps children meet other adults and children during outings in the local community, which enable children to develop their social skills. This means that their social skills help children to prepare and adjust when they move to nursery or school.

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

The childminder has a sufficient understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She ensures that adults in the household all have the relevant checks undertaken to confirm their suitability. The childminder shares information with parents about children's activities. Parents praise the childminder for the care and attention she provides for their children. The childminder has completed online courses to develop her knowledge and skills. For example, she has completed a fire safety course but does not practise emergency evacuation with the children. She evaluates her practice and identifies areas for development. However, she does not plan effectively to ensure any gaps in children's learning are closing.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY291702
Local authority	West Berkshire (Newbury)
Inspection number	996023
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	3
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 October 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives in Speen, Berkshire and operates for most of the year. She works with an assistant occasionally.

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