

Inspection date	26 March 2015
Previous inspection date	23 March 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		Good	2
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 hold a current first-aid certificate, which is a legal requirement of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Consequently, she is not fully up to date with any new health procedures, to ensure children's well-being is promoted to a good level.
- The childminder does not make children fully aware of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they are not aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire taking place on the childminder's premises.
- The childminder sometimes finds it difficult to engage with all other settings that children attend, to ensure continuity in children's learning and development.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder has a recognised childcare qualification. This means that she fully understands how to promote children's learning through positive interaction and skilful teaching. As a result, children make good progress towards the early learning goals.
- The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection procedures. She understands how to report any concerns, and is clearly aware of signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk of harm. The detailed safeguarding policies in place underpin this knowledge. This helps to protect children from harm.
- Behaviour is managed very well by the childminder. She reinforces good behaviour through consistent explanation to children about what is right and wrong. She encourages children to play together nicely, sharing and taking turns with the toys. This promotes a harmonious environment and prepares children well for their future learning at school.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- maintain a current paediatric first-aid certificate, in order that a full knowledge of current practice is in place, to help promote children's welfare at all times.

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

- enhance children's understanding of what to do in the event of an emergency, for example, by practising a fire drill
- explore and implement strategies to strengthen the links with all other settings that children attend, so that regular information is shared, in order to continually enhance children's learning and development.

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

- ensure that an appropriate first-aid qualification is maintained at all times, so that children's welfare is promoted (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that an appropriate first-aid qualification is maintained at all times, so that children's welfare is promoted (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector conducted a joint observation with the childminder and discussed the learning benefits of an activity.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder, and discussed her self-evaluation form and targets for improvement.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers from information and feedback included in parents' questionnaires.
- The inspector observed activities and interactions between the childminder and children.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and procedures, including safeguarding and complaints, children's learning records and a range of other documentation.

Inspector

Val Thomas

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The childminder engages effectively in children's learning. She encourages them to express their own ideas through painting and collage activities. The childminder promotes language well, asking open-ended questions. For example, she encourages children to talk about what they are going to make when gluing the materials and pasta on the paper. She introduces mathematical language as children talk about the hearts on the cloth, and helps children to realise when they need to use a little amount of glue. The childminder encourages children's independence in routines. For example, children dry their hands after using the toilet and learn how to put on their coats and shoes to go outside. The childminder encourages children to write their name and has made named placemats for lunch, to help with recognising their own name. This prepares them well for when they move to school. Assessments of children's learning are accurate and the childminder uses these to plan their next steps.

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

The lack of current first-aid training means that children's welfare is not fully promoted. The childminder develops children's awareness of safety, by explaining to them why they need to sit still when they eat their apple. However, she does not extend their understanding of safe practices fully as she does not practise fire drills with them. The clear settling-in procedures help children to forge close attachments with the childminder. As a result, children are confident and happy. They show much delight when they play hide and seek together and eagerly run to the childminder for a cuddle. The childminder discusses children's needs with parents when they first start. Consequently, she is able to ensure care is tailored to their needs, including their dietary needs. The childminder shares her detailed policies with parents and daily discussion ensures children's emotional well-being is continually supported. The childminder promotes children's physical development well, through regular outdoor play and trips to the local park.

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

The childminder evaluates what she offers and has met the recommendations set at the last inspection. She has made use of a toy library to acquire resources to raise children's awareness of disability, and ensures that attendance records are always accurate. The childminder is aware that she needs to maintain a current first-aid certificate, but has had difficulty in finding a suitable course. She is now booked onto a course, and knows how to deal with some emergency procedures. However, the lack of up-to-date training means that she is not fully aware of new procedures. The childminder is experienced and qualified in childcare, which enables her to promote the learning of children well. She monitors children's progress closely and plans a wide range of interesting activities to motivate children to learn. The childminder builds effective links with some settings that children attend. However, she struggles to engage with other settings, to ensure continuity in all children's learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY304478
Local authority	Staffordshire
Inspection number	856560
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	23 March 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Gnosall, near Stafford. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a level 3 childcare qualification.

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