

Inspection date

25 March 2015

Previous inspection date

4 November 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:

- The childminder has administered medication without gaining the appropriate written consent. This is a breach of requirements in relation to health and well-being.
- Some activities lack a good level of challenge because, on occasions, teaching strategies are not appropriate to some children's needs and interests.
- There are missed opportunities for children to explore their environment freely and independently.

It has the following strengths

- Children settle very quickly into the setting. Flexible settling-in procedures, as well as detailed information about children's likes and dislikes, mean that the childminder is able to meet children's individual care needs effectively.
- Children are very happy in the childminder's care. They enjoy playing with the childminder and enjoy snuggling up to her when they are tired.
- The childminder demonstrates a robust understanding of safeguarding procedures and the procedures to follow, should she have a concern about the welfare of a child in her care.
- The childminder has a good relationship with parents and local schools. They share information regularly, which enables them to work together to provide consistency of support for the children 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:

- improve procedures for the administration of medicine by ensuring it is only administered where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained
- improve teaching strategies by ensuring all that activities are appropriate to children's learning needs, interests and stage of development in order to provide a challenging and enjoyable learning experience for all children.

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

- maximise opportunities for younger children to explore their environment freely and independently.

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

- keep a record of any medicine administered to any child who is cared for on the premises, together with a record of a parent/guardian/carer's consent (compulsory part of Childcare Register)
- keep a record of any medicine administered to any child who is cared for on the premises, together with a record of a parent/guardian/carer's consent (voluntary part of Childcare Register)

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed all parts of the childminder's home used for childminding.
- The inspector observed play and learning activities and spoke to the childminder and children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and children, through written comments provided for the purpose of the inspection.
- The inspector viewed regulatory documentation, including evidence of suitability for all household members, children's details, learning files, and a sample of policies and procedures.

Inspector

Elizabeth Fish

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 broad range of activities to promote children's learning and development across the seven areas of learning. However, the childminder's teaching strategies are not always appropriately matched to children's needs, interests and stages of development. For example, babies and toddlers quickly lose interest during a flash card activity. Therefore, they are not sufficiently challenged to make the best possible progress. In addition, there are missed opportunities for children to explore their environment freely and independently. This is because, sometimes, younger children are sat in chairs for too long. The childminder carries out regular observations and assessments. This helps her to identify children's stages of development, as well as some areas where further support is needed. She plans a range of activities, such as reading and drawing, to help older children develop their reading and writing skills ready for starting school.

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

Children appear safe in the setting. However, the childminder has not ensured her practice in the administration of medicine is up to date with current legal requirements. That being said, children learn how to keep themselves safe as they learn about potential dangers in the home. Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care and look forward to spending time with her. This demonstrates that children are emotionally secure. Parents comment that their children see the childminder as part of their family. Older children still come and visit her. Children play in a clean and well-maintained environment, where they are generally confident and motivated to learn. Children are given plenty of praise as they attempt new things, such as stacking blocks. This encourages them to persevere until they manage to build a higher tower. Children love playing in the playhouse or with equipment, such as balls, outside. They also enjoy visits to the local farm. This ensures that children have plenty of fresh air and exercise. Children learn to play alongside each other and share resources.

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

The childminder's knowledge of her responsibilities to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage requires improvement. Evaluation of her practice is not successful, as she has not identified that there is a breach of requirements in relation to health and medication. The childminder does not have consent for the administration of some medicines. Consequently, she has administered medicine without gaining appropriate written consent. However, she follows the instructions on the label and parents sign once this has been administered. The childminder attends relevant training. This means that she is generally able to identify where children are in their learning and take appropriate action where areas of under achievement are identified. She liaises with parents and other professionals to discuss how they could work together to support the children effectively. She reviews risks in the environment regularly to ensure her premises are safe.

Setting details

Unique reference number	311817
Local authority	Gateshead
Inspection number	868046
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	4 November 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1997 and lives in Harlow Green, Gateshead. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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