

Inspection date

30 March 2015

Previous inspection date

28 February 2012

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 does not keep accurate records for the times she administers medication, to ensure children's health needs are supported effectively.
- The childminder failed to inform Ofsted of a significant event, which is a breach of the legal requirements. However, at this time, Ofsted intends to take no further action.
- The childminder does not always use appropriate teaching methods and resources to help young children develop their understanding of letters and the sounds letters make.
- Systems to evaluate the provision are not fully effective in identifying all strengths and weaknesses, consequently, not all legal requirements are met.

It has the following strengths

- Children know the childminder very well and form strong bonds with her. This means children are happy and settled and their emotional needs are supported well.
- The childminder provides children with many toys and resources. They share these and play together well, which supports their personal, social and emotional development.
- The childminder has positive relationships with parents, which supports continuity of children's care, learning and development.
- The childminder has a sound understanding of safeguarding procedures to keep children safe.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure a written record is maintained each time medicine is administered to a child and inform the child's parents and/or carers on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable
- ensure that activities and teaching methods are tailored to children's age and stage of learning, with particular regard to the introduction of letters.

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

- develop the use of self-evaluation further to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to drive continuous improvements.

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

- ensure that any record of medicine administered to children includes the date and circumstances and who administered it (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that any record of medicine administered to children includes the date and circumstances and who administered it (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's sitting room and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of some parents.
- The inspector undertook a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Gill Cubitt

Inspection findings

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

Children have easy access to their toys and resources, which enables them to become independent. The childminder observes children during play and makes appropriate assessments to support their learning. However, some activities are not appropriate for children's age and stage of development. For example, the childminder uses letter templates to help young children learn about letters and the sounds they make. However, the children are too young to learn successfully from this method of teaching and lose interest. Children benefit from looking at books and having conversations with the childminder, which broadens their language and interest in stories. Children have good support with their creative and fine motor skills as the childminder provides them with plenty of resources to create attractive pictures. The childminder has friendly partnerships with parents who appreciate the daily feedback and the photographs of children's activities. Parents also participate in children's formal assessments, which supports children's progress.

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

The childminder ensures children play in safety while in her home, and when they go on outings. The childminder sets appropriate behaviour rules and children know this is for their safety. Children benefit from praise from the childminder and happily go to her for comfort, which shows they are happy and settled. The childminder maintains some records. However, she fails to record when she has administered medication to children. Children have healthy, balanced meals and exercise in the garden, which supports their health. The childminder also takes children on regular trips to local toddler groups to broaden their social skills and confidence. This helps children to settle well when moving on to other settings and school when the time comes.

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

The childminder has failed to inform Ofsted of a significant event. This is a legal requirement. The childminder has met the actions from the last inspection and her self-evaluation demonstrates a reasonable capacity to improve. For example, the childminder is now using her observations generally well to monitor children's progress and to plan activities. However, not all weaknesses have been identified. The childminder has strong links within her community. She liaises with teachers and staff at local schools and nurseries that children attend, which supports consistency in their care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	124405
Local authority	Croydon
Inspection number	813663
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	2
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1992. She lives in the London Borough of Croydon. The childminder offers care from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday throughout the year.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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