

Inspection date

14 April 2015

Previous inspection date

16 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		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 have a secure understanding of what she should do if she is worried that a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse.
- The childminder is not able to explain her policy for the safe use of mobile phones and cameras in her setting.
- The childminder does not plan activities that match children's learning needs. She does not always support children's speech and language skills effectively.
- The childminder does not identify weaknesses in the setting, to promote continuous improvement.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder demonstrates strong partnerships with parents. They are kept informed about their children's day and learning.
- Children are happy and settled in this warm and welcoming childminding setting. The playroom is purposely designed, offering children a dedicated space in which to play and learn.
- Children develop secure emotional attachments, to both the childminder and her assistant. Warm, trusting relationships are established.
- Children behave well. Consistent boundaries are in place and adults act as good role models, supporting children to know what is expected of them.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use assessments of children's learning to plan a challenging and enjoyable learning experience for each child, that meets their learning needs and supports their continuing progress
- improve knowledge and understanding of the action to be taken if there is a concern that a child is being abused or is at risk of abuse
- put in place a policy for the use of mobile phones and cameras in the childminding setting.

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

- support children's developing communication and language skills, by giving them time to process questions before answering
- establish a programme of self-evaluation, in order to accurately identify weaknesses in the setting and plan for continuous improvement.

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

- improve knowledge of child protection procedures, to safeguard children from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).
- improve knowledge of child protection procedures, to safeguard children from abuse or neglect (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the main playroom.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and her assistant at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a selection of policies and records.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder, her assistant and household members.

Inspector

Jacqueline Mason

Inspection findings

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

The childminder knows the children well but does not plan activities to build on what they already know. This means that activities often lack interest and are not matched to children's learning needs. As a result, children make satisfactory, rather than good, progress in their learning and development. They achieve the basic skills to be ready for school. Children's progress is tracked, to ensure that any gaps are identified. They have free access to a range of toys. Others are stored out of reach and are brought out when the childminder, or her assistant, notice that children lose interest in what is already out. The childminder engages well in children's play and helps them to learn, such as supporting them to count the number of cars that children put in a line when playing with small-world transport. She engages children in conversation and repeats sentences back, so children can hear them pronounced correctly. However, she does not always give children time to process questions before answering for them.

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

The environment is welcoming and security is good, but weaknesses in safeguarding procedures compromise children's well-being. Children are encouraged to be active, through regular opportunities to be outside. Their good health and physical well-being is further supported through the childminder's consistent routines, such as encouraging children to use baby wipes to clean their hands before eating. Children's dietary needs are met by their parents. The childminder talks to parents about children's individual routines for sleeping and feeding. These are continued, to promote continuity of care. The childminder uses a baby monitor, so that she can hear if children sleeping in the bedroom have stirred. Children are supported to settle into the childminding setting and they enjoy the praise and cuddles of both the childminder and her assistant. Children's behaviour is managed effectively and good behaviour is praised. This supports children to develop confidence and cope with new experiences.

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

The childminder has a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse, to enable her to recognise when children are at risk. However, she is not confident about how she would manage concerns. She has not maintained regular training in child protection, to ensure that she is aware of up-to-date guidance and procedures for reporting concerns. The childminder does not have a policy for the use of mobile phones and cameras in her setting. This means that children's welfare is not sufficiently safeguarded. The childminder understands her responsibilities to meet the statutory requirements. She supervises her assistant, through observing her practice. She chats informally with her assistant, to discuss what has gone well but weaknesses are not identified or managed. Therefore, changes made to the setting are not assessed effectively, to monitor the impact on children's care and learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	251323
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	866507
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	19
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	16 March 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was first registered in 1998. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. She holds a relevant childcare qualification at level 3 and works with an assistant.

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