

Childminder Report

Inspection date

30 July 2015

Previous inspection date

17 October 2008

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		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 closely monitor how well she is promoting the educational programmes or how children are progressing towards the early learning goals. This does not ensure children are supported to make the best possible progress.
- The childminder has not maintained her professional development to ensure she keeps fully up to date with changes in the early years sector. This means that some aspects of her practice are not effective enough to ensure children always receive the support they need.
- The childminder's self-evaluation is not thorough enough to ensure all weaknesses are quickly identified and targeted for improvement.

It has the following strengths

- Children's emotional well-being is successfully promoted. The childminder is warm, caring and nurturing, and children are happy and confident in her care.
- The childminder regularly completes safeguarding training and understands her role in dealing with child protection issues. She is able to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect and knows the procedures for reporting concerns.
- The childminder is very attentive to the children in her care. She notices babies' signals and interprets what they mean. This helps to ensure their needs are fully met.
- The childminder successfully promotes children's health. High standards of hygiene and cleanliness are maintained and she ensures children get lots of opportunities to benefit from fresh air.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve the systems to review the delivery of the educational programmes, in order to ensure all aspects of each area of learning are fully covered
- improve the use of assessment to identify children's next steps in learning more precisely, and gain knowledge and understanding of how to complete the required progress check for children aged between two and three years.

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

- extend the professional development programme to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, in order to support children's future learning and achievements
- enhance the systems for self-evaluation so that weaknesses are effectively identified and addressed.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the premises, toys and equipment.
- The inspector observed activities in the home and carried out a joint observation with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at children's assessment records and planning documentation.
- The inspector took into account the views of parents through written documentation.

Inspector

Lindsey Pollock

Inspection findings

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

The provision for children's learning and development requires improvement to ensure the quality of teaching is good. The childminder provides a range of activities that give children varied experiences. She takes them on outings to widen their understanding of the world. This often involves travelling by bus or train, which provides different learning opportunities and delights the children. Attendance at community settings enables them to experience being in a larger group. This helps to prepare them for nursery and school. However, the childminder does not check to ensure all aspects of learning are well planned for. Additionally, she does not complete secure assessments of where children are in their development to help with planning for the next steps in their learning. This does not ensure they make as much progress as possible and are as ready as they can be for starting school. Nevertheless, the childminder knows the children well. She can talk in general about the progress they have made and the play opportunities she provides for them.

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

The childminder provides a welcoming environment in which to care for children. She offers long-term commitments to families, often caring for siblings for many years. Consequently, the childminder has very positive relationships with parents. This helps to ensure children are happy, secure and settled in her care. Children have access to a varied range of resources, both indoors and outdoors. These are stored so they are easily accessible to children, enabling them to make independent choices about what they want to play with. The childminder sees children's safety as a priority and supervises them vigilantly. She carries out risk assessments of her premises and the other venues she visits with children so she can identify and minimise potential hazards. As children get older, she teaches them how to identify dangers themselves and how to keep themselves safe.

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

The childminder attends first-aid and child protection training to help safeguard children. However, she does not have secure arrangements in place to extend her professional development beyond this. She has not kept her knowledge up to date about changes in the early years sector. As a result, there are gaps in her understanding of how to fully support children's learning. For example, she has a limited knowledge of how to complete the progress check for children aged between two and three years. The childminder talks to parents to evaluate her practice, but this is not thorough enough to identify and target the areas that require improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	311557
Local authority	Gateshead
Inspection number	868029
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	17 October 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1995 and lives in Birtley, Chester le Street. She operates all year round, from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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