

Childminder Report

Inspection date

19 August 2015

Previous inspection date

25 January 2011

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's assessment of children's progress does not always provide an accurate picture of how well they are doing, or help her to support children to achieve the next steps in their learning and development.
- Partnerships with other early years providers have not been fully established to ensure that a shared approach is taken to involve all those working with the children in all aspects of their care, learning and development.
- The childminder does not always make the most of resources to promote children's enjoyment and interest in developing their early-reading and early-writing skills.
- The childminder's evaluation of her practice is not yet robust, and does not identify and prioritise weaknesses to drive targeted improvements to her practice.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder sensitively introduces children to wider experiences beyond the childminding provision. Children enjoy regular visits to local parks and activity groups. This supports them effectively to develop positive attitudes and to embrace new challenges with self-confidence.
- Children's safety is promoted as the childminder is secure in her knowledge of safeguarding and she helps them learn how to keep themselves safe.
- The childminder has developed positive relationships with parents. Parents write positively about the service she provides.
- The childminder creates a nurturing environment for children. She builds trusting relationships with the children, enabling them to feel safe, confident and settled.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that assessments of children's progress are used more accurately to consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child and use this information to accurately identify their next steps to plan challenging experiences in all of the areas of learning
- improve the partnerships with other early years provisions children also attend, so learning goals and achievements are discussed more regularly, and there is a shared approach to supporting children's progress.

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

- increase the range of opportunities and resources available to children to extend their early-literacy skills
- develop thorough self-evaluation so that any weaknesses in practice are quickly identified and addressed through targeted actions.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children eating their snacks, and during their play indoors and in the garden.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled written observations, planning documentation and a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents and carers through their written comments.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the childminder in relation to observations of the children's play, learning and progress.

Inspector

Anneliese Fox-Jones

Inspection findings

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

The childminder generally provides children with resources and activities that supports their learning and development. However, some resources are not always easily accessible. Nonetheless, the childminder supports children's interests. For example, children are encouraged to identify differences in the sizes and shapes of toy vehicles. She plays alongside younger children. As a result, children concentrate and stay focused for longer periods of time. The childminder observes children's play to support their steady development. However, she does not make best use of her assessments, and specific learning targets for individual children are not clearly identified to support them making stronger progress. The childminder promotes children's language and vocabulary appropriately through sensitive conversations with them. These exchanges help children develop their skills in speaking and understanding language for communication. However, children are not fully inspired to use various writing materials for a range of purposes and do not have a broad range of books, to support their early-literacy skills, curiosity and interests in the world.

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

Children have daily opportunities to be in the fresh air because they take trips to the local parks and play groups. As a result, children develop their physical skills and social skills, which prepare them for school, when the time comes. The childminder provides healthy meals and snacks of fruit. She talks to the children about healthy and unhealthy foods. As a result, healthy lifestyles are promoted well. The childminder regularly praises and celebrates children's achievements. This has a positive impact on children's self-esteem and confidence. Their behaviour is good and they develop positive relationships with others. Children learn to keep themselves. They take part in regular fire evacuation drills to develop their awareness of what to do in the event of an emergency. The childminder teaches them the importance of road safety when out walking around the community.

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

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of the learning and development requirements. She has made some improvements since her last inspection to further promote children's good health. However, self-evaluation is not yet robust or focused on identifying and addressing all aspects for improvement. The childminder has a suitable understanding of child protection issues. She knows which agencies she must involve if she has any concerns about the welfare of children. However, she has not fully established highly effective partnerships with all settings that children attend to ensure children's learning experiences are regularly discussed and enhanced through a shared approach.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY273244
Local authority	Reading
Inspection number	833405
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	25 January 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives in Tilehurst, near Reading, Berkshire. The childminder cares for children Monday to Friday, all year round.

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