

Childminder Report

Inspection date	19 October 2015
Previous inspection date	27 April 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Good	2
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The childminder has not completed the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years.
- The childminder does not fully promote children's creativity and ability to make independent choices from materials. This stops their freedom of expression.
- The childminder does not always make the best use of every opportunity to encourage children to develop independence in their self-care skills.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder has formed close trusting relationships with the children, which enables the children to feel safe and happy.
- Children's personal, social and emotional development is supported well. The children behave well. The childminder is attentive to children. They learn about expected behaviour and to value others.
- The childminder provides a varied range of interesting resources and experiences for children. Children enjoy their time in the setting; they gain confidence and develop good social skills.
- The quality of teaching is good. The childminder effectively questions children during activities in order to extend their learning.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
■ gain knowledge and understanding of the required written progress check for two-year-old children and, when implementing it, detail areas in which a child is progressing well, and any areas where some additional support might be needed.	30/12/2015

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

- strengthen opportunities to give children more experiences to explore their own ideas and creative skills
- make the best use of every learning opportunity to encourage children to be independent and teach them to manage their personal needs, relative to their ages.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and children at play throughout the inspection.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder and the children at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The inspector sampled written documentation, and a selection of policies and children's records.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through their written comments.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's self-evaluation processes and plans for improvement.

Inspector

Anneliese Fox-Jones

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Safeguarding is effective. The childminder understands the safeguarding requirements and is aware of the signs which may cause concern about a child's welfare and how to take action to protect the children in her care. She keeps her home safe for children through regular risk assessments. She evaluates her setting and identifies how improvements can be made. However, she has failed to fully keep up to date with changes regarding the progress check for children aged between two and three years. Nonetheless, the childminder is committed to continuous professional development to improve her service and the outcomes for children. For example, she discusses practice with other professionals and researches new ideas. She has developed good working partnerships with parents and effectively keeps them informed of their children's progress, so the impact of the lack of the required written assessment at age two years is not significant. Parents contribute to establishing children's starting points.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn. She provides a stimulating home environment where children can make choices in their play. However, the childminder sometimes over-directs activities, which prevents children from developing their own ideas. Nonetheless, she promotes children's vocabularies well through sensitive conversations with them. For example, she encourages children's observations and interests when talking about acorns and conkers. Such exchanges help children to develop their communication and language skills. The childminder regularly observes children as they play, and knows their individual needs, interests and personalities well.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are good

The childminder shows warm affection, and sets a good example to children. Children learn to be kind and polite, and to respect each other. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through the clear routines and safe practices encouraged by the childminder. These include road safety and emergency evacuation of the home. The childminder teaches children effectively about healthy lifestyles and children enjoy regular fresh air and exercise. The childminder knows children's backgrounds and promotes their self-identities positively. Children have good manners and understand about sharing and taking turns. The childminder praises the children for their efforts and achievements, which raises their self-esteem and confidence further.

Outcomes for children are good

The childminder prepares children well for their next stages in learning. All children make good progress. For example, they learn to count and name some shapes. They enjoy using simple technology and are interested in books.

Setting details

Unique reference number	117015
Local authority	Reading
Inspection number	840079
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	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	27 April 2010
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1998. She lives in West Reading, Berkshire. She operates Monday to Friday all year round.

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