

Childminder Report

Inspection date

16 December 2015

Previous inspection date

10 October 2011

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		Requires improvement	3
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
Outcomes for children		Requires improvement	3

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- The childminder does not fully understand statutory requirements regarding children being left in the sole care of a person who is not registered with Ofsted.
- The childminder does not ensure that confidential information and records about children are held securely and only accessible and available to those who have a right or professional need to see them.
- Children have few opportunities to explore materials and express their individuality during planned activities. As a result, children are not challenged in their learning to ensure rapid progress in their development.
- Children have limited opportunities to do things for themselves and practise their skills of independence.
- The childminder's self-evaluation is not accurate in identifying weaknesses in her practice or breaches to legal requirements.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder provides a welcoming and inviting childcare environment.
- The childminder is kind and caring and has children's well-being at heart.
- The childminder is well organised and keeps good records of children's routines, learning and achievements.
- The childminder works in partnership with parents and regularly shares information with them about their child's development.
- The childminder works closely with other settings that children attend to maintain continuity in 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
■ ensure that any person being left in sole charge of children is registered with Ofsted as suitable to do so	28/12/2015
■ ensure that confidential information and records about children are held securely and only accessible and available to those who have a right or professional need to see them	28/12/2015
■ provide children with challenging activities that enable them to express their individuality and make choices in the way they explore materials.	11/01/2016

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

- provide more opportunities for children to do things for themselves and practise skills of independence
- improve self-evaluation to accurately identify weaknesses in practice and breaches of legal requirements and ensure that the necessary action is taken to address them.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder's interaction with children engaged in activities indoors.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and spoke to children throughout the inspection.
- The inspector jointly discussed the outcomes of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading their comments and feedback.
- The inspector looked at suitability records, qualifications, planning, self-evaluation, records of children's progress, parental permission forms and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.

Inspector

Jennifer Forbes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The childminder allows her husband to act as her assistant even though he is not registered to do so. This means that on occasion he takes children to school and is privy to confidential documentation relating to the children in her care. Despite this, arrangements for safeguarding are effective. This is because the childminder's husband has undergone some suitability checks and is known to Ofsted. In addition, he holds a relevant first-aid qualification. Furthermore, the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues, she has policies and procedures in place and knows how and where to report a concern. The childminder regularly reviews her policies and carries out thorough risk assessments of the childcare environment and on outings. The childminder reflects on her practice and takes account of the views of parents and children. However, she does not successfully identify all the weaknesses in her practice in order to plan effective improvements to raise standards for children.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The childminder has a sound understanding of how children learn through play and knows how to provide activities to meet their interests. However, the childminder does not provide children with opportunities to explore materials independently during planned activities. This is because the childminder overly directs children to achieve a standardised result. Children are not sufficiently challenged in this aspect of their learning because they are not able to express their individuality. Despite this, the childminder provides excellent resources and a spacious learning environment for children. Children are able to use their imagination in role-play situations and freely select resources that are easily accessible to them. Children enjoy outings that enable them to learn about the natural world. For example, they visit farms where they learn about animals. Their learning is extended by photographs displayed in the setting.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children build good relationships with each other and make strong attachments to the childminder. This ensures they settle well into the setting and are confident and self-assured. The childminder shares information with parents about the children's daily routines. She follows parents' guidance in relation to children's dietary requirements to ensure she meets children's needs and keeps them safe. The childminder ensures that children have daily access to fresh air and exercise. She takes children into the local community where they socialise with others and learn about differences in people. Children learn about different cultures by exploring festivals and resources. Children are well behaved in the setting and they develop skills of turn taking and sharing. However, the childminder does not always provide opportunities for children to learn to do things for themselves and become independent.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children make some progress in their learning. They develop some of the key skills to help them prepare for school, such as, enjoying books, counting and learning colours.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY286143
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	861243
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	7
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	10 October 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2004. She lives in Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex. The childminder operates from Monday to Friday, from 7.00am until 6.30pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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