

Childminder Report

Inspection date

2 February 2016

Previous inspection date

Not applicable

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Not applicable	
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 use her knowledge of older children's interests and abilities effectively to challenge them more consistently and promote their learning further, developing their imaginations, independence and early writing skills. This hampers the progress that children should make.
- The childminder does not establish effective links with all early years settings that children attend, to share information about children's learning needs and provide them with a consistent approach in their experiences.
- The childminder does not effectively promote hygienic routines to help children learn about positive practices that help to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder and her assistant promote younger children's language and communication well. For example, they use signing, introduce new words and ask questions to extend younger children's vocabulary, helping them to communicate their needs and understanding.
- The childminder provides a welcoming home. She is attentive to children, listening to and sharing their news. Children quickly settle and feel a sense of belonging.
- The childminder ably manages her provision to ensure children are safe and secure in her home and on outings. She regularly checks on sleeping children and ensures children are safe when allowing visitors into her home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

	Due Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan challenging activities for older children to extend their imaginations, and provide opportunities for them to be independent and to develop their early writing skills 	03/03/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve partnerships with other early years providers that children attend, to promote a two-way flow of information to build on what children learn elsewhere, to provide a more consistent approach in meeting their needs. 	03/03/2016

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

- develop more hygienic routines to help children learn about positive hand hygiene practices that reduce the risk of cross contamination.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities with the childminder, assistant and children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder, assistant and children at appropriate times.
- The inspector viewed a range of documentation including records of attendance, safeguarding policies, risk assessment and children's records.

Inspector

Sara Frost

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The childminder did not fully understand the legal requirements. She provided childcare for more children than permitted over a three-week period and did not inform Ofsted of her assistant. However, as soon as the childminder recognised the breaches, she took prompt action to rectify them. The childminder is now clear about her responsibility. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder and her assistant know what to do if they have a child protection concern about a child's welfare. They keep children safe, for example, when walking them to and from school. The childminder ensures her assistant's suitability through carrying out appropriate checks and supporting her to develop her skills. She makes good use of training to promote younger children's communication and language skills. The childminder works well with parents and keeps them informed about their children's learning. However, she does not work effectively with other providers to share information about children's learning and progress. Overall, the childminder uses self-evaluation appropriately to help her make changes to her practice. She monitors children's progress successfully, but does not ensure that activities for older children provide consistent challenges in line with their learning needs.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The childminder and assistant successfully encourage the younger children to think about and communicate their ideas. They use some opportunities to introduce mathematical language during play, such as 'full' and 'empty'. The childminder's regular assessments of children's progress help her to identify next steps in their learning. However, she does not use this information well enough to extend and challenge older children at all times.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children form good attachments with the childminder and assistant, who know and meet the children's care needs well. The childminder supports children's developing self-esteem by praising them for their attempts and completing tasks. However, the childminder does not always encourage older children to do more things for themselves and gain stronger independence skills. The childminder teaches children to wash their hands when appropriate. However, they use the same hand towel to dry their hands with, which does not help them to learn about hygienic practices and how to be healthy.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Younger children make steady progress from their starting points. However, older children's progress is not as rapid as it could be; to do more things for themselves as they become independent and to develop their early writing skills, in preparation for future learning and moving on to school. Nonetheless, children gain confidence and social skills to help them handle their future experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY495455
Local authority	Plymouth
Inspection number	1036724
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2015. She lives in the village of Elburton, near Plymouth. She provides childcare between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Friday. The childminder works with an assistant. The childminder holds a level 3 childcare qualification.

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