

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 March 2016

Previous inspection date

2 November 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Requires improvement	3
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Requires improvement	3
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 gained written permission from parents before administering medicines. This is also a breach of the Childcare Register requirements.
- The childminder does not use her assessments of children's learning effectively to more accurately identify any gaps in the provision.
- The childminder does not consistently exchange information about children's learning with other early years settings they attend to inform her planning.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder plans interesting activities that promote children's learning well. She uses her good knowledge of individual children to extend and challenge them effectively, supporting children's good progress from their starting points.
- Children are confident and have good self-esteem. Very young children show through their affectionate relationships with the childminder that they feel emotionally secure.
- The childminder develops strong partnerships with parents. She shares information effectively. She talks to parents about children's achievements and progress, and encourages them to share information about activities at home.
- The childminder evaluates her practice well and looks for opportunities to develop her skills to promote good-quality outcomes for children. For example, a 'mud kitchen' workshop has led her to extend outdoor learning activities further and provide a greater range of experiences for children.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

Due Date

- ensure written permission from parents or carers is in place before administering any medicines to children. 31/03/2016

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

- develop assessments of children's learning to help identify any gaps in the learning provision more effectively
- improve systems of sharing information about children's learning with other settings they attend, to develop consistency in planning for future progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder and children engaged in learning activities.
- The inspector talked to the childminder about planning and how she monitors children's progress in learning.
- The inspector sampled documentation, including safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector discussed how the childminder evaluates her practice and identifies areas for improvement.

Inspector

Julie Neal

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The childminder monitors her practice effectively overall, and identifies her strengths and most areas for improvement. However, she has not used her self-evaluation well to identify that her records of medicine given to children do not meet requirements. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder updates her procedures to take account of changes to legislation, and implements these well to help protect children from harm.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

Children enjoy a good variety of activities that promote their learning. The childminder focuses well on developing their communication and language. For example, very young children named colours as they used magnetic shapes to copy patterns. They confidently identified shapes that were the same, and which were bigger and smaller. The childminder extended this well by asking children to identify in advance, where they will position each piece in order of size. The childminder encourages children to explore and investigate. For example, they were interested in some candles so the childminder encouraged them to smell the different perfumes and feel the textures. Children enjoy daily outings into the countryside and to local parks with the childminder. They explore the local woods and make mud pies in a nearby stream. The childminder conducts thorough risk assessments of these activities to help her minimise possible hazards, and to teach children how to keep themselves safe.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children are happy and well behaved. The childminder's good settling-in procedures help her to ensure children feel confident and secure. Children benefit from the calm and well-organised environment, with a wide variety of resources available for them to choose from as they play. Children understand good hygiene practice. For example, when they dropped some fruit on the floor, they knew to put it in the bin. The childminder's good relationships with parents help her to provide a consistent approach to promoting children's development, for example, when children begin to learn to manage their personal needs, and if there are concerns about behaviour. Systems for ensuring children's well-being when they require medication are not fully robust.

Outcomes for children are good

Children develop the skills they need to be ready for the next stage in their learning, including going to school. Young children develop good muscle control in their hands that helps to prepare them for writing later on. Children are curious learners and enjoy investigating, and skilfully manipulating cogs, wheels and locks to see what will happen. They learn to use technology with a purpose, selecting different buttons to make a toy play favourite songs. Children develop good communication and mathematical skills.

Setting details

Unique reference number	104579
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	824756
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	1 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	2 November 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2000 and lives close to the centre of Ashburton, Devon. She operates Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, all year round. She holds a level 3 early years qualification.

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