

Childminder Report

Inspection date

12 September 2016

Previous inspection date

10 January 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Requires Improvement	3
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 always provide challenging activities to ensure that children make good progress.
- The childminder does not consistently provide children with opportunities to develop their independence.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder develops strong and caring relationships with the children and their families. Partnerships with parents are strong. Feedback from parents refers to how happy the children are in the childminder's care and that they feel welcome, like part of the family.
- The childminder understands how to help children learn and she helps children to develop their communication skills. She encourages children to develop their thinking skills by using questions.
- The childminder communicates with schools and pre-schools to support children in their learning.
- The children play happily indoors and outdoors in a welcoming home environment.

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 activities are consistently challenging in order for children to make good progress. 04/10/2016

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

- provide children with more opportunities to develop their independence.

Inspection activities

- The inspector held discussions with the childminder about observations of children's play, learning and progress.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outside and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector checked evidence of the childminder's qualifications and training, and evidence of the suitability of household members.
- The inspector reviewed policies, procedures and documents available, including feedback from parents.
- The inspector discussed the childminder's self-evaluation and improvement plans. She spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

Inspector

Rebecca Williams

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

Since the last inspection, the childminder has made progress to address the weaknesses identified. She now ensures that children cannot open the back door. The childminder has minimised risks in her home and garden and understands how to identify the signs and symptoms of abuse. She has recently renewed her safeguarding information which states how to refer such concerns to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She understands when she has to notify Ofsted of relevant events, such as changes in household members. Children's use of internet enabled tablets is supervised and there are controls in place to maintain their safety online. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder evaluates her practice and identifies areas to continue her professional development. She is seeking training about recent changes in legislation relating to the encouragement of the values of respect and tolerance.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The childminder does not always offer sufficiently challenging activities. For example, children are given a few leaves which are the same size and colour to glue onto plain paper. They lose interest quickly. Later, children are decorating dinosaurs with coloured clay. Moulding the clay onto the dinosaur helps children to develop their physical skills. The childminder sits on the floor with children and supports them when necessary. The childminder provides a narrative and questions the children, developing their communication skills and encouraging them. She talks to them about the colours. They move on to decorating wooden letters, and she introduces the phonic sounds of the alphabet. The childminder completes progress checks when required and plans activities that cover all the areas of learning. She knows the children's interests and abilities and how she wants to support them in their next steps.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children are not consistently encouraged to use their developing independence for tasks, such as helping to tidy away after activities. However, children enjoy playing in the welcoming home environment. They develop strong bonds with the childminder. Children are caring towards each other and behave well. The childminder understands how to help children to respect diversity and has some resources to support this. Children are taught about healthy food choices and how to keep themselves healthy. For example, they learn how to care for themselves in hot weather.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Although the childminder does not consistently challenge children to make as much progress as they can, she provides them with a range of activities. . The childminder helps children to gather some of the skills they need for school, or the next stage in their learning. Some aspects of children's mathematical and literacy skills are developing well. They enjoy counting and sit closely with the childminder to listen to stories.

Setting details

Unique reference number	560114
Local authority	Essex
Inspection number	1043677
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	10 January 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1999 and lives in Springfield, Chelmsford. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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