

Childminder Report

Inspection date

9 May 2018

Previous inspection date

27 August 2014

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 have written permission from parents for her assistant to have sole charge of children. This means that children's daily safety and well-being are not promoted.
- The childminder does not consistently assess and monitor how well children are progressing towards the early learning goals.
- The programme of self-evaluation does not help the childminder identify gaps in practice or review ongoing development needs.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder and her assistant understand their responsibility for the safeguarding of children. They have a secure understanding of the procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child and ensure children are fully supervised at all times.
- Children are confident and have strong bonds with the childminder and her assistant. Settling-in arrangements are thoughtfully planned to ensure that children's emotional needs are met.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. The daily exchange of information between parents and the childminder promotes children's care and development.
- Children behave well. They share toys and play cooperatively with each other. The childminder encourages children to respect their friends and others in the community.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ obtain parents' permission to leave an assistant in sole charge of children, even for short periods of time 	06/06/2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ use ongoing observations and assessments effectively to identify what children need to learn next and shape learning experiences for each child. 	06/06/2018

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

- improve self-evaluation processes and make sure that any weaknesses in the provision are quickly identified and swiftly addressed.

Inspection activities

- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder and her assistant. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspector spoke to children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspector

Tina Mason

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The childminder has attended training to ensure that she understands what to do should she have a concern about the welfare of a child in her care. She has good systems to check her assistant is suitable to work with children. She ensures that her assistant completes essential training and supervises him effectively. However, the childminder has not obtained parents' permission for her assistant to have sole charge of children, as required. The childminder maintains accurate records for medication and accidents to help ensure children's safety. Self-evaluation is not effective in identifying the weaknesses in her provision to help ensure that children receive good outcomes.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The childminder regularly observes children in their play. However, she does not have effective systems for assessing and monitoring children's learning and development. This does not ensure that children are supported to make the progress they are capable of or that activities are precisely focused on their individual learning needs. Despite this, the childminder and her assistant provide children with a range of play opportunities they enjoy. The childminder recognises some of the children's interests, such as problem solving, and provides resources for these. Both the childminder and her assistant interact positively with children. The childminder promotes children's speaking skills, she talks to them and encourages responses.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Weaknesses in leadership and management mean that children's welfare is not promoted as well as possible. Nevertheless, children are happy and confident to play and explore and have access to a safe environment. The childminder continually risk assesses the environment, indoors and outdoors, and when she takes children on any outings. The childminder works closely with parents to settle children into her provision. She gathers information relating to their care and well-being. The childminder encourages children to develop independence skills, including toileting and good hygiene practices. Children have daily opportunities to extend their physical development. They play outside and walk to and from school. The childminder has developed links with the local primary school to support children with their learning.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children are confident and eager to learn. However, the lack of close monitoring of their development means they are not consistently supported to make the progress of which they are capable. However, children do learn skills that they will need for the next stage in their learning. For example, they begin to manage their personal care skills with little support and make choices about how and where they wish to play. They sustain their interest for periods, relative to their age, during child-initiated activities.

Setting details

Unique reference number	506294
Local authority	Southend on Sea
Inspection number	1135515
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	12
Number of children on roll	12
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	27 August 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1990. She lives in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. She operates all year round from 8am to 6pm from Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant.

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