

Childminder Report

Inspection date

11 June 2015

Previous inspection date

31 August 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

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

- Assessment arrangements are not fully effective in helping the childminder to plan specifically for children's needs. In addition, the childminder does not complete the required progress checks for children when they are two years of age. This does not support her to identify any gaps in children's learning from an early age.
- The childminder does not take adequate steps to prevent the spread of germs during cooking activities. This does not ensure that children are protected from the risk of cross infection and does not help children to develop good hygiene routines.
- The childminder undertakes some evaluation of her service but this is not effective in helping her to identify all areas of her practice that require improvement.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy and secure in the care of the childminder. The childminder makes sure the children settle in quickly by developing a strong bond with the children and their families.
- The childminder makes sure the children are able to develop some skills ready for their next stage of learning. Children choose toys and activities for themselves with the childminder's support.
- Overall, the childminder understands how children develop and makes sure they are given a range of experiences to support this, such as trips to the park in addition to playing in her home.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure there are suitable procedures for the hygienic preparation of food, especially when carrying out cooking activities with children
- use ongoing assessment to monitor and plan children's next steps in learning, including providing parents with a brief written summary of their child's development between the ages of two and three years

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

- strengthen the use of self-assessment to more effectively review teaching and care practices to identify areas for improvement.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health of the children (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- take all necessary measures to minimise any risks to the health of the children (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector carried out observations of the childminder and children in the home and garden.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector carried out a joint observation with the childminder.

Inspector

Victoria Frost

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

The childminder understands how to promote learning and provides some suitable challenge through activities such as craft, construction and baking. She shows some good teaching skills, for example, she frequently asks questions, suggests sharing or turn taking and allows children to try things for themselves in play. Children put on their shoes independently and learn how to use magnifying glasses to observe insects outside. The childminder considers the children's likes and dislikes when preparing games or activities so that the children are able to play with things they enjoy. However, arrangements to assess children's progress are not fully robust. This means that the childminder does not always plan activities effectively to address children's individual learning needs to ensure they make the best possible progress. The childminder does not complete the required progress checks for two-year-old children and provide parents with a written summary.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and choose freely from a range of toys and resources. They play outdoors on a regular basis in the childminder's garden and on frequent walks or outings to local parks. Children eat meals that are prepared by the childminder, who promotes healthy eating habits. Children learn about food through cooking activities. The childminder wipes down surfaces and reminds children to wash their hands. However, she is not sufficiently thorough in ensuring that these arrangements are robust enough to minimise the risk of cross infection. Consequently, the childminder does not take all the necessary steps to keep children healthy and safe, or to teach them good hygiene practices. Children play together and receive support to learn basic social, emotional, language and physical skills. They are supervised appropriately and the childminder keeps a record of their attendance, noting the time they arrive and depart.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The childminder demonstrates some strengths in teaching, but overall she does not target support well enough to promote the best possible outcomes for children. Although she provides a welcoming environment, the weaknesses in her hygiene routines mean that she does not always fully promote good health. The childminder seeks the views of parents to help her plan some areas to develop. However, self-evaluation arrangements are not strong enough to identify all areas where practice is not meeting requirements. The childminder maintains friendly, positive relationships with parents that help her to meeting children's ongoing care needs. She has adequate knowledge around child protection issues and knows what action to take should she have concerns about the welfare of any child. The childminder has identified training to update her knowledge as a priority.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141446
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	846569
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 12
Total number of places	4
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	31 August 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1994. She lives in the Great Holm area of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. She cares for children Monday to Friday, all year round.

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