

Childminder Report

Inspection date

8 September 2015

Previous inspection date

28 February 2011

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 keep an accurate record of all the children's attendance. This means that she is not always aware of any issues regarding children's welfare. This is also a breach of the Childcare Register requirements.
- The childminder does not store children's confidential information and records in a secure manner to ensure these are not easily accessible.
- The childminder does not consistently encourage parents to inform her about children's achievements at home to promote a shared approach to children's learning.
- Self-evaluation is not robust enough to identify key areas of weakness in knowledge and practice and the effect these have on children's care and learning.
- The childminder does not adequately promote children's understanding of differences between themselves and others or the cultures outside of their family experiences.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder has close relationships with children, who seek her out for comfort and reassurance throughout the day. These bonds help children feel secure, play happily and become confident learners.
- The children are able to make progress in their development because the childminder makes regular observations and understands how to support them to learn.
- As children grow, the childminder gives them the emotional support they need to prepare for the next step in their learning, such as school.

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
■ keep a daily record of each child's hours of attendance	09/10/2015
■ take all reasonable steps to secure confidential information and records, making sure that they are only accessible to those who have a right to see them.	09/10/2015

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

- use stronger strategies to support and encourage parents to become more involved in their children's overall learning
- review self-evaluation arrangements to obtain a more accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of knowledge and practice, and identify and address where action needs to be taken to improve
- strengthen opportunities for children to explore the differences between themselves and others, celebrating and respecting different cultures beyond their family experiences.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children's play activities in the childminder's home.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector carried out a joint inspection with the childminder.
- The inspector took account of the written views of parents.
- The inspector reviewed a range of documentation, including children's records and the childminder's policies and procedures.

Inspector

Victoria Frost

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The childminder asks parents to share their views and considers the success of individual activities and experiences that she offers children. However, the arrangements for ongoing evaluations are not effective enough to identify all weaknesses in her provision. This means that she does not implement improvements over time that contribute to children's learning or improve her knowledge of any changes in childcare practices. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has an accurate understanding of local child protection procedures and understands what to do if she is concerned for children's safety. However, she does not store children's records securely to maintain confidentiality. In addition, by not keeping an accurate record of children's attendance, she is not alert to wider indications regarding their safety and welfare. The childminder receives some funding to support children's learning, but the impact this has is limited because of the weak partnerships with parents.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The childminder makes regular assessments of children's learning. She draws new challenges from these and shares them with parents. However, strategies to involve parents in children's learning are not always successful, so she does not have a clear picture of children's development. The childminder makes sure that she collaborates with others involved in children's learning, such as when children attend other settings. The childminder has some teaching techniques that improve children's learning. She stimulates conversation and uses questions throughout play to introduce children to new words and challenge their ideas. Children develop the skills they need for future learning through a range of activities that develop their social, communication and physical skills.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

The childminder explores key festivals with children throughout the year, but she does not build children's understanding of the differences between one another on a regular basis. She introduces children to new challenges and experiences in play, for example, using a range of tools and materials with home-made dough. Children develop awareness of how to stay safe and take reasonable risks through exploring role play activities. The childminder helps children to develop good hygiene habits to promote their health effectively. For example, she supports them as they learn to wash their hands independently and teaches them to how to keep themselves clean during messy activities.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children receive support to make some progress in their learning. They behave well and develop independence skills in preparation for their move on to school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	141646
Local authority	Milton Keynes
Inspection number	836612
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	4
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	28 February 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 1987 and lives in Springfield, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years. She offers care from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 8am and 6pm, all year round.

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