

Childminder Report

Inspection date

24 July 2015

Previous inspection date

18 March 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:

- Observations and assessments are not used regularly to gather enough information about individual children. Therefore, the childminder is not able to help them make the best possible progress in their future learning.
- The childminder lacks current knowledge about how to safeguard children because she has not attended a child protection training course.
- Children's concentration and listening skills are sometimes inhibited, because of the background noise of the television.
- The childminder does not fully encourage children's understanding of why it is important to have good handwashing routines.
- Self-evaluation lacks rigour and does not identify the weaknesses within the provision.

It has the following strengths

- Children are happy and settled. They have strong relationships with the childminder and friendships are built with each other. This promotes children's emotional well-being.
- The childminder keeps parents informed of their child's daily care routines and activities through daily verbal feedback.
- The childminder organises her home well to provide a warm and safe place for children to play and explore.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- make better use of observations and assessments of each child's progress, and use this information to plan the next steps in their learning and help children make swifter progress
- ensure that children are fully safeguarded by attending a relevant child protection training course.

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

- build on children's ability to concentrate and listen by ensuring there are less distractions around them as they engage in other activities
- improve children's understanding of why it is important to develop good handwashing routines
- strengthen self-evaluation by developing ways to monitor and evaluate practice, in order to identify any weaknesses and ways to further improve the provision.

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

- attend child protection training to identify and act on any indications that a child may be suffering from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the childminder engaging with children in a range of learning activities.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder and engaged with children during the inspection.
- The inspector looked at documentation, including children's files, children's assessment records and required records.
- The inspector jointly observed and evaluated an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of persons living on the premises.
- The inspector took account of parents views through written references and those spoken to on the day.

Inspector

Amanda Tompkin

Inspection findings

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

The childminder has some understanding of how to promote children's learning and development. She provides a good range of toys and equipment that generally cover all areas of learning. The childminder offers the children lots of praise and encouragement as they play, which builds their confidence and self-esteem. She joins in with their self-chosen games to help extend their learning and development. For example, she helps promote children's understanding of letters and sounds by sounding out letters as they complete an alphabet puzzle. However, although children are learning through play they are not making the best possible progress. This is because the childminder does not use observations and assessments effectively to identify and plan for children's next steps in learning. The childminder promotes children's speaking and listening skills as she engages them in meaningful conversations throughout the day. However, children's concentration skills are not always fully enhanced, because they are sometimes distracted from their play by the background noise of the television.

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

The children are welcomed into a safe and happy home. They respond well to the childminder's caring and affectionate nature. Children behave well. This is because the childminder supervises the children effectively and offers gentle reminders to children about expectations of behaviour. The childminder understands the importance of preparing the children for their future school life. She encourages them to be independent, for example, attending to their own toileting needs. However, the childminder does not consistently reinforce children's understanding of the importance of good handwashing routines before meals and snacks. Children are offered a gradual settling-in period where they become familiar with the childminder and new environment. This helps children to settle quickly and feel emotionally secure. Younger children are happy to approach the childminder for reassurance when tired or upset. Parents speak fondly about the childminder. They express their complete satisfaction with the service she provides.

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

The childminder does not fully meet the legal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has some understanding of child protection in that she is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse. The childminder understands her responsibilities in passing any concerns to the relevant authorities. However, her knowledge and understanding of current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures is limited. This is because she has not attended the required training. The childminder completes the required progress check for children aged between two and three years. This means that she is able to identify any gaps in children's learning. The childminder holds a current first-aid certificate and is able to manage any minor accidents or injuries appropriately. The childminder's self-evaluation is not secure enough to identify weaknesses in the setting. This hinders the childminder's ability to make required changes.

Setting details

Unique reference number	205054
Local authority	Worcestershire
Inspection number	871097
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	18 March 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1998 and lives in Redditch. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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