

Childminder Report

Inspection date	25 January 2016
Previous inspection date	20 January 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Outstanding	1
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 up to date with changes in early years practice. She does not make use of professional development opportunities and this has contributed to her not using current legislation and guidance, such as an out-dated version of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- The childminder's self-evaluation is not accurate in identifying weaknesses in her practice. This means improvements to practice are missed and some legal responsibilities are not implemented fully, for example, her duties in relation to data protection.
- The childminder does not implement successful strategies to gather information from parents about children's learning at home. This results in parents not being encouraged to be fully involved to support their child's learning and development.

It has the following strengths

- Children have access to an extensive range of resources, both indoors and outdoors. The environment provides children with a variety of opportunities to engage in play of their choice.
- Children benefit from close relationships with the childminder. They form secure attachments with the childminder, which supports them to become confident.
- Children are helped to develop an awareness of keeping healthy. They have daily access to play outdoors and benefit from fresh air and exercise.

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

- develop professional knowledge to gain a better understanding of the current legal requirements in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, to ensure the standards set by the framework support children's well-being and progress. 01/05/2016

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

- sharpen self-evaluation processes to identify the weaknesses in practice and address these to drive rapid improvement
- increase opportunities to gather information from parents about what children can do in their own home, in order to better support children's learning and development.

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the areas used for childminding. She talked to the children and childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection and observed a variety of activities.
- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability and qualifications of the childminder, as well as a selection of policies and procedures including safeguarding. She discussed risk assessments and the childminder's self-evaluation process.
- The inspector jointly observed an activity with the childminder. She discussed children's learning and development, sampled their records and looked at the planning documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents by reading a number of their comments on letters obtained by the childminder.

Inspector
Susan Sykes

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management requires improvement

The childminder has not updated her knowledge of changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework which was revised in September 2014. This has resulted in her not being aware of some of her legal responsibilities, such as the requirements around data protection. Self-evaluation is not strong enough to enable the childminder to identify areas for development in her practice. Although the childminder shares her knowledge and monitors her assistant's practice, because her own knowledge is not current she is unable to ensure that her assistant fully understands the requirements. Written testimonials demonstrate parents highly rate the service she provides. The childminder maintains a range of policies and procedures. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder knows procedures to keep children safe, including what to do if she has a concern regarding a child's welfare.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

The childminder understands the importance of sharing information with parents and other professionals. She provides a variety of play experiences to promote children's learning and development. Children develop speaking and listening skills as they join in with singing sessions and share books. The childminder gathers basic information from parents regarding children's starting points when they first attend, and undertakes observations and some assessments to identify their next steps in learning. However, she is less successful in engaging more parents in actively contributing to their children's progress. For example, not all parents are encouraged to exchange information about what their children do and learn at home. This does not promote consistency in their learning or support children to make good progress.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children play happily and choose from a range of resources in the childminder's welcoming home. Children settle quickly and are confident to play and explore. They learn about diversity and each others' difference so that all children feel valued. The childminder encourages children to play cooperatively. This helps them to build relationships with their peers and to prepare them emotionally for the larger social environment of school. She praises and encourages children's achievements and efforts, which helps to promote their self-esteem and confidence. Children behave well, the childminder is a good role model and has a calm nature. The childminder maintains a safe environment for all children through daily checks. Children gain knowledge of how to keep safe. They learn about road safety when they walk around the local area. The childminder ensures safe use of all information and communication technology equipment. However, she does not keep up to date with her professional development so that she fully understands the requirements for data protection. This does not fully promote children's welfare.

Outcomes for children require improvement

Children make some progress towards the early learning goals from their starting points. They are developing the basic skills needed in readiness for their next stage of learning.

Setting details

Unique reference number	209183
Local authority	Lincolnshire
Inspection number	854454
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	2 - 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	20 January 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2000 and lives in Spalding, Lincolnshire. She operates all year round from 5.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 4. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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