

Childminder Report

Inspection date

13 May 2015

Previous inspection date

30 July 2009

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Inadequate	4
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Inadequate	4
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The childminder occasionally cares for too many children aged under the age of eight years and has not fully considered the risks associated with this. This compromises the safe and effective management of the provision.
- The childminder has not explored further ways to encourage parents to support their children's learning and development at home.
- Self-evaluation procedures are not sufficiently robust to identify and target areas for improvement and ensure legal requirements are met.
- The childminder has not considered further ways to encourage other providers to share information about the children's learning, in order to promote continual progression in their development.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn. She successfully builds on the children's interests as they play and ensures activities are challenging and fun. Consequently, children are developing the skills and capacity to learn in preparation for pre-school and school.
- The childminder forms appropriate relationships with the children. She develops their confidence and self-motivation skills as they participate in their activities. This supports their physical and emotional well-being.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- ensure that the number of children cared for does not exceed a maximum of six children under the age of eight as defined in the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance.

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

- expand the already good partnership with parents, for example, by suggesting possible ideas to support their child's learning at home
- develop procedures for self-evaluation to ensure targets for improvement are based on rigorous monitoring of practice and take account of the assistant's views
- extend the partnership with other providers, for example, by gathering more detailed information about children's learning, to enhance and complement the opportunities provided.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities and routines in the indoor and outdoor areas.
- The inspector spoke to the childminder throughout the observations and spent time interacting with the children.
- The inspector looked at children's records, planning documentation and a range of other documentation, including policies and procedures.
- The inspector discussed self-evaluation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of the childminder, her assistant and other adults living within her home.

Inspector

Ann Austen

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

The childminder supports children's developing communication and language effectively. She engages children in purposeful conversation and extends their vocabulary during enjoyable singing and storytelling activities. Children eagerly dig in the sand and the childminder encourages them to differentiate between the wet and dry sand. They develop their perseverance and hand-to-eye coordination skills as they fill and empty containers at the water tray. Their enjoyment is further enhanced because the childminder shows children how to make the water wheel turn around. Parents are effectively informed about their child's learning through daily discussions, the completion of a daily diary and the sharing of the children's development record folders. However, the childminder does not always suggest possible ideas to support the children's ongoing learning and development at home.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is inadequate

The childminder has not adhered to the ratios of children she is allowed to care for at any one time. This means that when the childminder walks the children to school their safety and welfare are compromised because of the large number of children she is caring for. Children have regular access to the outdoors for fresh air and exercise, which promotes their continuing fitness and well-being. For example, children manoeuvre wheeled toys in the childminder's garden and access more physically challenging apparatus at the park. Children's behaviour is managed appropriately. The childminder supports children to understand the consequences of their actions, to share, be kind to one another and take their turn. She encourages children to develop their sense of responsibility. For example, children help the childminder sweep the sand. They are praised for their achievements, which encourages them to persist with their chosen task.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision is inadequate

The childminder has not given sufficient thought to the organisation of her provision at the beginning of the day. This is with regard to the number of children she can care for when working alone. Disclosure and Barring Service checks have been completed on her assistant and all adults in her home. The childminder has an appropriate understanding of the indicator signs of abuse and understands the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child's welfare. She attends child protection training and her paediatric first-aid certificate is up to date. This enables her to deal with accidents and minor injuries. The childminder supervises the work of her assistant and ensures she is familiar with all policies and procedures. She monitors children's learning, enabling her to track their progress over time. The childminder is beginning to make some evaluations of her provision. However, defined targets for improvement have not yet been established and the views of her assistant have not been obtained. Parents comment positively about the service provided. Relationships have been established with the local school. However, procedures for gaining information about children's learning at school are not fully

embedded to enable the childminder to further complement children's learning in her home.

Setting details

Unique reference number	221235
Local authority	Northamptonshire
Inspection number	864252
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	12
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	30 July 2009
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 1987 and lives in the village of Earls Barton, Northamptonshire. She works with an assistant and operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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