

Inspection date

30 March 2015

Previous inspection date

8 December 2008

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:

- The childminder has not notified Ofsted about changes to her provision. Namely, that she uses an assistant to work alongside her and be in sole charge of the children. This compromises children's safety because the assistant does not hold a valid first-aid qualification. This is also a breach of the requirements of the Childcare Register.
- The childminder does not have any procedures for monitoring the work of her assistant and ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities.
- The childminder does not use robust methods to monitor and track children's progress. Therefore, she is unable to identify gaps in their learning and plan activities to meet their individual needs and ensure they make good progress in all areas.
- The childminder does not evaluate all aspects of her practice effectively. This means she does not identify weaknesses in children's learning or breaches in requirements.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder communicates well with the children and takes account of their interests when organising activities.
- The childminder develops positive relationships with parents. She keeps them informed about the care and experiences she provides. This helps them work together to maintain continuity between home and the setting.
- The childminder provides a wide range of resources, indoors and outdoors. This enables children to make choices in their play according to their interests.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- when working with an assistant, ensure they hold a current first-aid certificate if they are in sole charge of children
- when working with an assistant, ensure they have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities through induction training, effective supervision of their work and training
- improve the monitoring and tracking of children's development in all areas of learning to accurately identify gaps in their learning and provide activities to meet their individual needs.

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

- make better use of self-evaluation to identify weaknesses and improve the quality of the provision and children's learning.

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

- when working with an assistant who is left in sole charge of the children, ensure they hold an appropriate first-aid qualification and understand their responsibilities to keep children safe from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure Ofsted is informed of changes to any person working on the premises (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- when working with an assistant who is left in sole charge of the children, ensure they hold an appropriate first-aid qualification and understand their responsibilities to keep children safe from harm (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure Ofsted is informed of changes to any person working on the premises (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the children at play, indoors and outdoors, and viewed the range of toys, resources and equipment available.
- The inspector talked to the provider at convenient times during the inspection.
- The provider spoke to parents, sampled parental responses to questionnaires and took account parents' views.
- The inspector sampled a variety of documentation including children's learning journeys, policies and procedures, and regulatory documentation.

Inspector

Kim Spiller

Inspection findings

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

Children develop independence as they make choices about their play and how they use the resources. This helps them gain confidence in readiness for school. The childminder organises a range of activities to interest children and promote their learning. She encourages children's language skills appropriately and uses a variety of methods to communicate with them, including sign language. The childminder makes some observations of children's achievements. However, she does not use them effectively to monitor and track children's learning consistently across all areas of learning. Therefore, she does not have a clear understanding of children's level of development or gaps in their learning. This means she is unable to plan their learning effectively to ensure they make good progress in all areas. Nevertheless, the childminder is aware of children's interests and provides some challenging activities to reflect these

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

The childminder builds secure relationships with the children. This helps promote their self-confidence and self-esteem. The childminder gives children and parents time to settle into her setting and get to know her. This supports children's emotional well-being and continuity in their care. The childminder promotes healthy lifestyles with the children. For example, they play outdoors daily and make their own sandwiches from various healthy food options. However, the childminder compromises children's health and safety because not all adults who occasionally have sole charge of children hold a current paediatric first-aid certificate. Nonetheless, the childminder is a positive role model to the children. They behave well and are respectful towards both adults and other children.

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

The childminder does not have a secure understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements. She does not evaluate her practice effectively which means she does not meet all the requirements. The childminder has not informed Ofsted that she sometimes uses an assistant to work with the children. On this occasion, Ofsted does not intend to take any action. Additionally, the childminder does not have clear procedures to inform her assistant of their responsibilities or to monitor their work. However, the childminder has obtained parental consent and the arrangement is for short periods only. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection. She understands what to do if she has concerns about a child in her care. The childminder completes a wide range of training and uses this to improve some aspects of her practice. For example she has recently attended training to support boys learning. As a result, she has extended her outdoor resources to support children who prefer learning outdoors.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY292333
Local authority	Gloucestershire
Inspection number	833825
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	8 December 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives on the outskirts of Cheltenham. The childminder is working towards an early years qualification at level 3.

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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