

Inspection date

9 February 2015

Previous inspection date

17 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:

- Teaching requires improvement. The childminder does not use observations effectively to monitor children's learning and development, and she does not plan activities that challenge them.
- The childminder's understanding of safeguarding does not take into account the use of mobile phones and cameras in her setting. Consequently, children's welfare is not fully promoted.
- The childminder does not consistently promote opportunities to expand on children's understanding of risks, including personal safety. As a result, children are not learning to recognise the potential consequences of their actions.
- The childminder does not always remind children of the importance of good hygiene practices. Consequently, children are not developing an understanding of how to keep themselves healthy.

It has the following strengths

- The childminder supports children's personal, social and emotional development through regular praise and encouragement and they make suitable attachments with the childminder and their peers. As a result, they are happy, settled and behave appropriately.
- Children's communication and language development is encouraged because the childminder provides opportunities for them to voice their thoughts and ideas. For example, she uses open-ended questioning as she reads them stories. As a result, the childminder is supporting children in acquiring some of the skills they need for school.
- Children's physical development is promoted because the childminder provides opportunities for them to access fresh air and exercise on a regular basis.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- use information obtained from observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles; shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations to help children make the best possible progress in their learning and development
- ensure that the safeguarding policy and procedure covers the use of mobile phones and cameras to protect children's safety and welfare.

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

- improve opportunities for children to learn about leading healthy lifestyles and reducing the risk of the spread of infection; for example, by encouraging them to regularly wash their hands before eating and after touching the family pet, and by ensuring that young children's soothers are washed appropriately after falling on the floor
- extend opportunities for children to develop more awareness of personal risk and safety by consistently explaining how hazards, such as climbing over the family pet and throwing toys, may have an impact on them.

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

- provide a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- provide a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector looked at evidence of the suitability of the childminder's family members, and a range of other documentation, including her first-aid certificate.
- The inspector observed general play and the snack and lunchtime routines. She talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector held joint discussions with the childminder in relation to children's play, learning and progress. She also walked with the childminder and children to collect other children from nursery.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Jo Rowley

Inspection findings

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

The childminder demonstrates some knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, she does not use observation and assessment to monitor children's learning effectively. This means that children's identified next steps in learning are not used to plan challenging activities and experiences. Children take part in activities that encourage their communication and language skills. The childminder supports their speech and language development by regularly repeating words during a story, and introducing new words to their growing vocabulary. Children behave appropriately and the childminder praises them for sharing and taking turns, which supports their personal, social and emotional development. However, when children throw toys or climb over the family pet, the childminder does not encourage them to think about their personal safety. As a result, children are not able to see the potential consequences of their actions.

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

The childminder does not provide children with consistent opportunities to develop their understanding of good hygiene practices. For example, although children wash their hands before lunch, they are not encouraged to do this before snack time. Children are not encouraged to follow suitable hygiene routines and the childminder does not remind them of the importance of washing their hands after stroking animals. In addition to this, younger children place soothers back into their mouths after these have been on the floor, without being washed first. The childminder encourages children to be independent, for example, they put on and take off their coats and shoes by themselves. The childminder praises children for good effort and this raises their self-confidence. Furthermore, older children are helpful around the younger children, as they kindly support them in finding their individually named coat peg. The childminder supports children's emotional well-being. For example, children laugh happily as she joins in enthusiastically with them to sing number rhymes and songs. In addition to this, children happily and spontaneously sit with the childminder when in need of a cuddle.

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

The childminder is aware of whom to contact professionally if she has concerns about a child in her care, and she is able to demonstrate the signs and symptoms of abuse. However, she does not have a suitable policy for the use of mobile phones and cameras in her setting. This compromises children's safety and welfare because older children use these regularly. The childminder has a friendly relationship with parents, carers and other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She passes on details of what children have taken part in at pre-school and provides daily feedback to parents. As a result, parents are informed and they are able to extend children's learning at home. The childminder evaluates her setting by obtaining parent and child feedback. This helps her to plan for future improvements, including training opportunities to develop her knowledge and understanding further.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY298891
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	856473
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	17
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	17 December 2008
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2005 and lives in Shefford. She operates on a term-time only basis from 7am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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