

Childminder Report

Inspection date

15 March 2018

Previous inspection date

22 May 2014

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Inadequate	4
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of the leadership and management		Inadequate	4
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment		Good	2
Personal development, behaviour and welfare		Inadequate	4
Outcomes for children		Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision is inadequate

- The childminder is not aware of her responsibility regarding disqualification. She does not ensure that her assistants are also fully aware. This significantly compromises children's safety.
- The childminder does not have an adequate knowledge of the correct procedure to follow in the event of an allegation being made against herself or her assistants.
- The childminder has not informed Ofsted of changes to the people caring for children. She has not provided Ofsted with the relevant information for all assistants to enable it to fully check the suitability of these individuals.
- Occasionally, the childminder does not provide children with increased opportunities to develop an understanding of numbers.
- The childminder does not share enough information with parents about how they can extend individual children's learning even further at home.

It has the following strengths

- Children build a secure bond with the childminder. Older children eagerly share their thoughts with her. Younger children snuggle up to her as they become tired. They wake happily from their sleep, ready to resume their play and learning.
- The childminder places a strong emphasis on promoting children's language skills. She adapts the way she speaks to individual children, according to their level of understanding. The childminder introduces older children to the meaning of new words. She actively listens to younger children's attempts at speaking and supports them with the pronunciation of words.

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 a secure knowledge of the reasons for disqualification and ensure that all assistants are fully aware of the expectation for them to disclose any information that may affect their suitability to work with children	29/03/2018
■ ensure that all adults working with children have a secure understanding of the procedure to follow in the event of allegation being made against themselves or assistants	29/03/2018
■ improve knowledge of informing Ofsted of changes to the people caring for children.	29/03/2018

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

- strengthen opportunities for older children to build on their mathematical knowledge of numbers
- provide more precise ideas for parents to extend children's individual learning at home.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder and her assistants. She looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household and working with children.
- The inspector spoke to and interacted with children during the inspection.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided and reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation.

Inspector

Lorraine Pike

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of the leadership and management is inadequate

Safeguarding is not effective. Although the childminder's assistants hold Disclosing and Barring Service checks, she has failed to inform Ofsted that these individuals are working for her. She has failed to provide Ofsted with her assistants' details to enable their suitability to be checked. Assistants carry out intimate care for children unsupervised, such as changing their nappies. This puts children at significant risk. The childminder does not have an adequate knowledge of the correct procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against herself or her assistants. In addition, the childminder and her assistants are not aware of the circumstances that may affect their suitability to work with children. Despite this the childminder and her assistants know what to do if they have a concern about a child. The childminder reviews children's progress to identify and address any gaps in their learning. She does not accurately reflect on her service. The childminder has failed to identify significant weaknesses in her practice. Suitable arrangements are in place to identify and support assistants training needs during supervision meetings. The childminder continues to improve her own knowledge and skills. Recent training has helped her to support less confident children to engage in group activities. Parents are pleased with the progress their children are making and appreciate the unique learning environment. The childminder works in partnership with staff at other settings that children attend to support their continuity of learning. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are supported well. Professionals regularly visit children in the setting to work directly with them. The childminder uses the same specific strategies as these professionals to support individual children to make good progress.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good

The childminder and her assistants deploy themselves well to meet the individual needs of children. Group time is a positive experience for all children. Younger children jump up and down in excitement when it is their turn to choose a puppet or soft toy from the box. They clap their hands in rhythm to the songs and nursery rhymes. Older children use their imaginations. They pretend to cook each other meals using toy food and speak softly to toy babies as they dress them and rock them to sleep. The childminder helps children to learn about life cycles. They watch ducklings hatch from their eggs and observe the process of caterpillars turning into butterflies.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare are inadequate

Weaknesses in leadership and management mean that children's welfare is not assured. Nevertheless, children behave well. The childminder promotes children to use good manners. Children show that they are aware of the boundaries in place to support them to respect each other. They carry out age-appropriate responsibilities, such as tidying away the toys they have finished playing with. Daily access to the various outdoor spaces helps children to develop good physical skills. They ride tricycles and jump to pop bubbles.

Outcomes for children are good

All children make good progress in relation to their starting points. They are motivated individuals. Children persevere in managing their own outer clothing from a young age. They make their own assessment of the correct clothing they need to wear for the weather. Some children link letters to the sounds that they represent and write their own name. Children express an interest in books and retell stories to themselves. They gain the necessary skills needed to help prepare them for their future learning at school.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY309382
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	1087229
Type of provision	Childminder
Day care type	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Age range of children	0 - 6
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	30
Name of registered person	
Date of previous inspection	22 May 2014
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2005 and works from her parents'-in-law house in Bedmond, Abbots Langley. She works with a co-childminder and eight assistants, some of whom work on a part-time basis. The childminder operates from 7.30am to 9am and from 5pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday when her co-childminder is not available. She receives funding for three- and four-year-old children. The childminder holds a relevant qualification at level 4..

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