

Childminder report

Inspection date

8 May 2019

Previous inspection date

12 November 2018

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
Effectiveness of 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 is a provision that requires improvement

- The balance between adult-directed activities and child-led activities is not matched to children's learning needs. Children do not have enough opportunities to lead their own play and the childminder's teaching does not always support children effectively.
- The childminder's assessments of children's achievements are not sharply focused to ensure ongoing progress in line with children's individual age and stage of development.
- The childminder does not fully support children to be as independent as possible or to communicate with others.

It has the following strengths

- Good relationships between the childminder and the children help to promote children's sense of well-being.
- The childminder provides healthy foods and daily physical activities that help children to develop a strong body.
- Parents provide positive feedback about the care the childminder provides for their children.
- The childminder uses appropriate strategies to help children behave well. She demonstrates polite behaviour and encourages children to do the same.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage and Childcare Register the provider must:

	Due date
provide a more balanced mix of child-led learning and adult-directed experiences, to allow children to solve problems for themselves, explore their own ideas and lead their play	09/08/2019
improve the accuracy of assessments and make sure next steps link to what children do and what they need to know next, and use the assessments to help plan purposeful play experiences.	09/08/2019

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

- build on the opportunities for children to be independent and to think for themselves and encourage them to communicate as much as possible.

Inspection activities

- The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspectors observed adult-led activities and discussed these with the childminder.
- The inspectors held a number of discussions with the childminder. They looked at relevant documentation and evidence of the suitability of persons living in the household.
- The inspectors spoke to children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspectors took account of the views of parents through written feedback provided.

Inspectors

Alison Reeves

Naomi Brown

Inspection findings

Effectiveness of leadership and management requires improvement

This inspection took place after concerns were raised about the childminder's knowledge of safeguarding. She has taken appropriate action to meet the welfare requirements notices in relation to child protection. Safeguarding is effective. The childminder has improved her knowledge of safeguarding, including when and how to report concerns. However, there are weaknesses in teaching that have not been identified by the childminder. She has taken some steps to address the recommendations from the last inspection. The childminder has not sufficiently developed her teaching skills or monitoring of children's progress. She demonstrates a commitment to ongoing learning to improve her practice.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment requires improvement

Teaching is not linked closely enough to what children know and can do. Some activities, although enjoyable, are too simple to extend children's existing skills. Other activities are too difficult and children are unable to succeed. The childminder is overly directive in her approach to how children should complete activities. She does not give children enough time to explore their own ideas, for example, by making mistakes and solving their own problems. The childminder provides activities that she knows the children enjoy. Children are keen to join in with the experiences she offers. They are cooperative and try to follow the childminder's instructions. Children are using single words to label items and describe their actions. They enjoy caring for the 'babies' as they feed and soothe the dolls. Children have fun joining in with the action rhymes and, at times, sing familiar songs spontaneously.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare require improvement

Children lack opportunities to do things for themselves. They have little chance to make independent decisions or to explore their own way of doing things. Children are active and show that they are developing their coordination and body strength. They enjoy the bending, stretching and balancing activities. The childminder knows the children's personalities. She provides loving care and often gives lots of praise. They enjoy a 'high five' and a 'well done'. Children participate in a range of cultural celebrations. This helps them to learn about people and communities. The childminder takes the children to local groups, where they meet other children and their carers for play.

Outcomes for children require improvement

The weaknesses in the quality of teaching have an impact on children's attainment. Children are not making rapid progress from their starting points. However, children develop their concentration as they persevere with removing the backing from sticky shapes. They try to use their fingers to lift the edges of the backing paper. They show that they are learning some useful knowledge, such as the counting sequence from one to 10. Children are learning some of the skills they need to help them with the next stage of their education.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY345849
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10105651
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children	1 - 3
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	3
Date of previous inspection	12 November 2018

The childminder registered in 2006 and is located in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

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