

Childminder Report

Inspection date

13 July 2015

Previous inspection date

29 February 2012

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		Inadequate	4
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		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 fails to assess the development of children aged between two and three years. She is unable to target necessary support and intervention to support them in making good progress.
- The childminder's risk assessments do not ensure that children are protected from all hazards.
- The childminder does not give sufficient time for children to think through their own ideas when they are playing.
- Children cannot always freely initiate their own play and learning. Some resources are stored out of reach of children inside inaccessible cabinets or stacked on top of, or behind, other materials.

It has the following strengths

- Children learn to behave well and are kind to others because the childminder is a good role model for them and has reasonable expectations. She also makes sure that parents are fully involved and agree with her positive methods to ensure consistency for children.
- The childminder uses small world play to encourage children to act out role play scenarios and build storylines using their imagination. This helps to extend their vocabulary, as well as learning to share and take turns.
- The childminder works closely with other settings that children attend in order to help their learning experience to be consistent.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- carry out a progress check for all children between the ages of two and three years, that identifies what children can do and any areas where progress is less than expected; provide parents with a written summary of their child's development in the prime areas
- ensure that risk assessments are effective in identifying and minimising all hazards to children.

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

- expand the opportunities for children to develop their own ideas during activities as they learn to make decisions for themselves
- enhance the opportunities for children to make more independent choices from resources.

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

- ensure that the premises and equipment used for childcare are safe (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)
- ensure that the premises and equipment used for childcare are safe (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed activities in the childminder's house and talked with the childminder and children at appropriate times throughout the inspection.
- The inspector viewed the areas of the premises and garden used for childminding.
- The inspector looked at a range of documentation including policies, evidence of the suitability of household members, observation and assessment documentation, and the safeguarding procedures.
- The inspector discussed with the childminder the activities that had been carried out.
- The inspector reviewed the childminder's self-evaluation record.

Inspector
Lynne Talbot

Inspection findings

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

The childminder does not demonstrate a clear understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has not completed a progress check between the ages of two and three years for children attending. Despite this, children are engaged in their learning because the childminder's teaching is supportive. She observes children and plans activities that build on their achievements. This helps to support them to acquire the skills needed for nursery or school. She incorporates learning within activities, such as helping younger children to count the tea cups as they play with the toy kitchen. However, on occasion, the childminder offers children new resources and suggestions too quickly as they play. This limits the opportunity for children to follow their own ideas and make decisions. Children are physically active and enjoy action rhymes. They enjoy playing in the well-equipped garden and spending time at social groups. This successfully supports their health and development, as well as social confidence. The childminder makes sure that she shares children's learning and development with parents each day. She uses electronic contact effectively and discusses their children's development with them.

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

The childminder offers thorough settling-in processes that help children to feel secure in her home. She seeks all relevant information from parents to help her to understand children's emotional needs. Children follow sound hygiene procedures to support their good health, and are well nourished. Children enjoy the range of activities prepared for them. However, while their independence is generally encouraged, some activities are stored inaccessibly and out of reach. This limits children's ability to initiate learning. The childminder introduces children to other languages, including her own. She provides activities that help them to appreciate and learn about each other's culture and the world around them. She ensures that all children's progress is reviewed, and that those with English as an additional language are given the support necessary to make progress.

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

Despite the fact that the childminder generally understands her responsibilities in meeting the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage, she has failed to meet all of these. The childminder's risk assessment processes are not effective in identifying and minimising hazards. This significantly compromises children's safety, particularly as they play in close proximity to a cabinet with glass doors which have not been made safe. The childminder shares a robust safeguarding procedure with parents that includes the use of the internet and modern technology. She uses self-evaluation and the views of parents to drive her improvement. The childminder seeks and attends training that helps to improve her practice. For example, she has attended courses to promote communication and language, inclusion and health. All parents report that they are happy with the service provided by the childminder.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY345849
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	857338
Type of provision	Childminder
Registration category	Childminder
Age range of children	0 - 17
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Name of provider	
Date of previous inspection	29 February 2012
Telephone number	

The childminder was registered in 2007 and lives in Stevenage. She operates all year round from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder is registered to provide funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

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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