

Inspection date

24 February 2015

Previous inspection date

10 April 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Satisfactory	3
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		Good	2
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 does not yet have a secure enough knowledge of the areas of learning in order to consistently plan sufficiently challenging activities and experiences for children.
- Occasionally, monitoring and tracking systems are not fully effective in precisely monitoring and assessing children's development and progress.
- There are fewer natural resources readily available that children can use in a variety of ways to enhance their exploratory and discovery play.
- The childminder keeps regularly updated with paediatric first-aid and safeguarding training. However, her programme for professional development is not always sufficiently focused on improving the quality of teaching.

It has the following strengths

- Children have secure relationships with the childminder due to the strong bonds they develop in their time at her setting. Children are happy and content due to the childminders warm and caring nature.
- The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection. Her home is safe and good steps are taken to reduce potential dangers. Children are effectively safeguarded while in her care.
- The childminder builds positive relationships with parents and keeps them informed and involved in their children's care.
- The childminder has a reasonable understanding of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. She regularly links up with other childminders to share ideas for good practice.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

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

- improve understanding and knowledge of the Early Years Foundation stage in order to plan more challenging activities and experiences for children and make consistently accurate assessments of their progress.

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

- enhance the learning environment by ensuring natural and sensory resources, for example, treasure baskets, are readily available to further extend younger children's curiosity and exploratory skills
- continue to seek opportunities for professional development to further enhance the quality of teaching skills so that children make good progress.

Inspection activities

- The inspector undertook a tour of the premises.
- The inspector observed children's play, and adult and child interactions.
- The inspector and childminder undertook a joint observation of an activity.
- The inspector looked at children's learning journey records, the self-evaluation form, and a range of other documentation.
- The inspector checked evidence of suitability of adults living on the premises.

Inspector

Nicola Wardropper

Inspection findings

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

The childminder provides a suitable range of activities to promote children's all round development. However, her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation stage is still developing, which means assessments of children's progress can occasionally be unclear and sometimes activities lack challenge. Consequently children do not always make good progress. The childminder observes children's play and plans for their next steps within the opportunities she provides. Children have access to a range of suitable resources. However, there are fewer natural and sensory materials readily available for the younger children to explore. The childminder promotes children's physical development. For example, she encourages babies to reach out for objects by 'scrunching' them. This successfully captures their attention and as a result, children focus and concentrate to reach out towards the object. The childminder supports children's communication and language skills through eye contact and facial expressions. As a result, babies respond positively by smiling and happily babbling. This supports their language development. Parents have free access to their child's progress records and other information, such as policies and procedures. This means they are suitably involved in their children's learning. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities around the progress check for children aged between two and three years and the need to share this with parents.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

The environment is safe and welcoming and children develop strong emotional attachments to the childminder and show they are very happy and settled in her care. The childminder works closely with parents from the outset, gathering key information about their children's individual needs and daily routines. Babies care needs are well supported. For example, the childminder cuddles them and talks gently as they bottle feed. She keeps children clean and comfortable and uses good hygiene procedures when changing nappies. The childminder promotes good health by providing a healthy diet and daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise. Regular trips in the community develop children's social skills and confidence. This helps children to build the emotional security they need to help them cope with moving on to school when the time comes.

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

The childminder has a good awareness of safeguarding, through attending up-to-date safeguarding training. She implements an effective safeguarding policy and carries out risk assessments on the environment which are regularly reviewed. Suitability checks have been carried out on all adults living in the household and the childminder checks the identity of visitors. As a result, children are kept safe. She seeks the support of the local authority. However, her programme for professional development is not always sufficiently focused on improving the quality of teaching. Effective partnership working with parents and local schools ensures a shared approach to children's learning. Parents are complimentary about the childminder and the care she provides for their children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY389815
Local authority	South Tyneside
Inspection number	879049
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	10 April 2011
Telephone number	

The childminder registered in 2009 and lives in Jarrow, South Tyneside. She operates all year round, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays.

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