

Childminder report

Inspection date: 2 February 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
The quality of education	Inadequate
Behaviour and attitudes	Inadequate
Personal development	Inadequate
Leadership and management	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety is compromised because the childminder does not carry out effective risk assessments and they are exposed to hazards in her home. The cluttered and overcrowded playroom means children's movement is restricted. Additional resources and toys are often out of reach, and this stops children from further extending their games or ideas. For example, they cannot make choices about what they want to play with while building with bricks or use their imagination to play games of make-believe. As a result, children are not learning as much as possible from their play.

Some activities and routines help children to learn about how to lead healthy lifestyles. For example, they enjoy helping to prepare and eat nutritious snacks. Older children show good hand-to-eye coordination as they use child-safe slicers to prepare cucumber. Their dexterity is developing well as they use the slicers carefully and with increasing ease.

Children appear happy and settled. They form warm bonds with the childminder and each other. Children demonstrate suitable manners and show kindness as they pass each other toys and welcome their friends returning from a nap.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The childminder has a weak knowledge and understanding of risk assessment. She fails to identify basic risks to children's safety. The playroom is chaotic, so some children use the narrow hallway; however, this means their toys are set up in front of one of the two emergency exits. This means that in the event of an emergency evacuation, children cannot exit the house swiftly.
- The childminder uses stairgates to prevent children from gaining access to the kitchen. At times, she leaves these open, so that children can wander in where several hazards are in their reach. When the childminder is busy preparing food in the kitchen, she does not notice that children have entered. They come into contact with the large tortoise and other hazards, such as a ladder propped against a wall and dirty mops and brooms. The lack of appropriate supervision means accidents may happen, or cross-contamination when children do not wash their hands.
- Children can reach hazardous items, including low-level glazing that has not been made safe, a leaking toilet and a heavy door propped against a wall. In some areas, pet food and used bedding remain accessible to children. The shared use of one hand towel between the children and another childminder's group of children who are visiting, puts them all at risk from cross-contamination and subsequent infection. This poses a risk to children's health.
- Children receive some support to develop their independence and are beginning

to learn to manage their personal hygiene. They go to the toilet and wash their hands by themselves. However, due to the poor overall organisation of facilities and the lack of cleanliness in the childminder's home, this means that children's good health is not assured.

- The childminder does not make sure that the areas where food is prepared are clean and hygienic. She does not understand the importance of ensuring the work surface in the kitchen is free from food debris, and the sink is full of unwashed pots and pans. The childminder does not wipe down high chairs to remove leftover food in between different children using them.
- Overall, the childminder's teaching is weak. Children do not benefit from ongoing, high-quality, interactive opportunities that provide them with time to practice and repeat their learning. The childminder does not check that children understand or can do what was intended. Children do not currently make sufficient progress in their learning and development.
- The childminder gathers sufficient information from parents about children's experiences. However, she does not use this information to plan for children's individual learning or build on what they already know and can do. The childminder shares some suitable information with parents. For example, she shares achievements, photographs and general information through an online application, and talks to parents daily.
- The childminder has not made sure that all records, required by legislation, are in place and maintained correctly. She has failed to keep a daily record of children's names and their hours of attendance. In addition, she has not ensured there is a record for each child that includes their full name; date of birth; address and information about who has parental responsibility or who to contact in the event of an emergency.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder does not take reasonable steps to assure children's welfare within her home. She does not carry out robust risk assessments. She does not know all of the main indicators of abuse or who the local safeguarding agencies are and does not have their contact information. The childminder has attended child protection training and has a safeguarding policy in place. However, she does not have the contact details to report any concerns she may have about a child's welfare, or an allegation being made against a household member.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

The provision is inadequate and Ofsted intends to take enforcement action.

We will issue a Welfare Requirements Notice requiring the provider to:

	Due date
update safeguarding knowledge to ensure that you are clear about the main categories of abuse and know who your local agencies are that have statutory responsibilities, to ensure you can notify them, without delay in the event of a child protection or safeguarding concern	23/02/2023
take all reasonable steps to minimise or remove risks in all areas used by children and ensure that all facilities are fit for purpose, this refers to used mops, bucket, low-level glass, propped ladders and door, regular cleaning of the nappy changing mat and the leaking toilet	23/02/2023
ensure that animal bedding and feed is out of reach of children and put in place a risk assessment relating to minimising the risk of cross-infection from all pets living in the household	23/02/2023
make certain that the premises and equipment meets the needs of children, ensuring the play space is fit for purpose and organised to promote free-flow play and child-initiated learning, and ensure you comply with health and safety legislation	23/02/2023
ensure that emergency exits are kept clear to provide swift emergency exit or access	23/02/2023
ensure the area where meals, snacks and drinks are prepared for children has suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food	23/02/2023
focus professional development on raising the quality of teaching to ensure that the learning and development experiences for children continually improve	23/02/2023

make certain that there is a record for each child that includes their full name; date of birth; name and address of every parent and/or carer who is known (and information about any other person who has parental responsibility for the child); which parent(s) and/or carer(s) the child normally lives with; and emergency contact details for parents and/or carers	23/02/2023
ensure all records, required by legislation, are in place and maintained correctly, this refers to maintaining a daily record of children's names and their hours of attendance.	23/02/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	147083
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10275743
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 9
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	13 July 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1997 and lives in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Lynn Clements

Inspection activities

- This was the first routine inspection the childminder received since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The inspector discussed the impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- The childminder and the inspector completed a learning discussion of her setting.
- Children spoke to the inspector about what they enjoy doing in the setting.
- The inspector talked about an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector reviewed relevant documentation, including the suitability checks of all adults living at the premises.
- Parents shared their views about the childminder's setting with the inspector.

We carried out this inspection 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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