

Childminder report

Inspection date:

20 July 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Inadequate

Leadership and management

Inadequate

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's safety is compromised. This is due to significant gaps in the childminder's knowledge and understanding of her roles and responsibilities to follow statutory requirements. Ineffective risk assessments of the outdoor area and unsafe sleeping conditions place children at risk of harm. Children do not consistently benefit from enough space indoors because the childminder has not considered the space requirements for the number of children in her care. A number of breeches to statutory requirements mean that the provision for children is not safe and effective.

Children do not benefit from a well-sequenced curriculum that focuses on what they individually need to learn. Children enjoy the majority of activities and make choices in their play. However, the childminder does not always clearly plan these to support children's stage of development and focus on ensuring all children make good progress. For instance, young children sit for a group time about weather and days of the week. They do not understand what the childminder is asking them and quickly lose interest and become distracted.

Children are happy and behave well. They are happy to arrive at the childminder's home and separate from their parents and/or carers with ease. Children understand and follow the daily routines. They are polite towards each other and play cooperatively with their friends, taking turns and sharing resources.

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

- The childminder does not ensure hazards in her garden are minimised to keep children safe. For instance, barrels of water set up as ponds are full up, with no safety precautions in place. This places children at risk of drowning. Piles of old wood with large nails sticking out are positioned at the back of the garden. Children can access these and are at risk of injury.
- The childminder's sleep arrangements for children are dangerous and pose a significant risk to children. Children are placed to sleep in a motorised swing chair in a shut room with the childminder's cats. The wire from the chair is accessible for children and poses a risk of electric shock or strangulation. Although adults check on the children regularly, children are at risk when left in the room alone.
- The childminder does not maintain accurate records of the children being cared for on the premises or record their hours of attendance. This is a breach of statutory requirements. It is unclear which children are in attendance at any one time. This puts children's safety at risk.
- The childminder does not understand the space requirements that must be maintained for children. However, she operates within the correct adult-to-child

ratios as she works with an assistant and co-childminder. The indoor space used for children does not meet the requirements for the number of children present. This means children do not have the space to play and explore comfortably.

- The childminder employs an assistant to work with her. The assistant's interactions with children are sensitive and warm. She talks to children and joins in their play with enthusiasm. However, the childminder does not implement effective systems to ensure the suitability of any assistants. She has failed to seek permission from parents and/or carers to leave children in the care of an assistant.
- Children enjoy activities that the childminder provides. They look at books independently and with their friends. They play with balls and cars, taking turns to roll them back and forth to one another. Children enjoy the sensory experience of playing with dough, water, sand and ice. However, the childminder does not clearly consider how the activities she provides support the intentions for her curriculum. Therefore, children's learning is not clearly focused towards their next steps.
- The childminder does not ensure that all children who learn English as an additional language are given good support to develop their speech in English. She does not provide all children with opportunities to use their home language in play to support their development. Therefore, not all children make good progress in their communication and language development.
- The childminder supports children to do things for themselves. For instance, children help to tidy away toys and know where they belong. They wash their own hands before snack and wipe their own faces. Children develop their independence skills and begin to show pride in their achievements.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder and those working with her do not carry out effective risk assessments to ensure they identify and deal with potential hazards. This compromises the safety of children. Ineffective procedures for maintaining records of attendance, obtaining parental permissions and checking suitability of assistants place children at risk. The childminder's safeguarding policy does not include adequate information about the use of mobile phones and cameras in her setting. She does, however, understand the signs and symptoms she must be alert to that may indicate a child is at risk from harm. She knows the procedures she must follow to report any concerns about a child or adults working with children.

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
ensure risk assessments are robust and all risks and hazards to children's safety are identified, removed or minimised swiftly, particularly in relation to the outdoor space and when children are sleeping	08/08/2022
take steps to ensure sleeping arrangements are safe and suitable for children	08/08/2022
maintain an accurate daily record of the names of the children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance	08/08/2022
ensure that minimum space requirements for children are maintained at all times	08/08/2022
implement effective systems to ensure the suitability of any assistants	08/08/2022
obtain permission from parents and/or carers to leave children in the care of an assistant	08/08/2022
review the safeguarding policy to ensure it includes relevant information about the safe use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting	08/08/2022
improve knowledge and understanding of the early years foundation stage requirements to ensure these are met effectively at all times, and have a full understanding of roles and responsibilities.	08/08/2022

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

- strengthen the curriculum so that it is focused on what individual children need to learn next
- review the organisation of group times to ensure that all children are included and engaged

- improve the support for children who speak English as an additional language, increasing opportunities for children to use their home language in play to support their development of English.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2543937
Local authority	Windsor and Maidenhead
Inspection number	10221490
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	0 to 11
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	21
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2019 and lives in White Waltham, Berkshire. She works alongside her co-childminder and an assistant. The childminder operates Monday to Friday for most weeks of the year. She holds a relevant qualification at level 3. The childminder is registered to provide free early years education funding to children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alice M Roberts

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 had discussions at relevant points throughout the inspection.
- The inspector viewed a range of the childminder's documentation.
- The childminder and the inspector had a learning walk discussion together to discuss the childminder's intentions for children's learning.
- The inspector and the childminder carried out a joint observation of a group activity.
- The inspector spoke to parents and took account of their views.

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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