

Childminder report

Inspection date:

15 January 2024

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

Requires improvement

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

The childminder works with an assistant who is not known to Ofsted. This means the required background checks have not been completed to assess the suitability of the assistant to work with children. The assistant is included in the ratios and has frequent unsupervised contact with children, including intimate care; this is a clear breach of requirements with a potentially significant impact on children's safety.

When they are working together, the childminder and her assistant have established clear routines and expectations which contribute to a calm and purposeful environment. Children are quick to follow instructions and demonstrate positive behaviour and conduct. However, the childminder does not always adhere to the ratio requirements, and the impact of this is notable. At these times, children's individual needs are not met. For example, children cannot have their nappies changed as this would leave multiple other young children unsupervised.

The childminder demonstrates an understanding of child development and clearly articulates what she wants children to learn in her setting. When working within ratio requirements, she is skilled at meeting the needs of the different ages and stages of the children in her care. For example, during a play dough activity, older children practise cutting the play dough using scissors and knives, while younger children are encouraged to use simpler tools to make prints.

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

- The childminder is compliant with most of the statutory requirements. Her child protection knowledge is secure. She is aware of potential risks to children in the environment and takes appropriate steps to minimise these. However, the requirements that she is not compliant with, compromises children's safety and well-being. This includes the lack of suitability checks for her assistant and the periods of time in which ratios are not adhered to. However, the childminder is committed to rectifying these and recognises the urgency and importance to do so.
- The childminder knows the children in her care well. She can discuss their individual interests, strengths and next steps with confidence. She seeks information from home to support children to settle quickly. For example, babies who are new to the setting confidently and happily explore. However, when ratios are not adhered to, this is disrupted as the childminder cannot offer the same levels of comfort and reassurance. These inconsistencies in practice are unsettling for children and impact on both their learning and well-being.
- When they are working together, the childminder and her assistant model a respectful and positive working relationship. They interact warmly with children

and are quick to follow their interests. Children show positive attitudes towards learning and demonstrate enjoyment as they engage in activities. For example, children listen carefully to instructions and remain on task as they make play dough together. However, this is only the case after the assistant has arrived. Prior to this, the setting feels hectic and the childminder finds it much harder to engage children or support them to make choices and settle into their day.

- The childminder and her assistant support children's language development well. They constantly narrate, modelling language and asking questions which are appropriate to the age of the children. For instance, younger children are supported to name animals and make animal noises, while older children have ambitious vocabulary explained to them using a non-fiction book about animals. However, this not consistent throughout the day, as the childminder is unable to meet the needs of the different ages until her assistant arrives. Nonetheless, over time, children develop into confident communicators.
- The childminder provides the children with a range of healthy and balanced home-cooked foods. She has no outdoor space but takes the children on daily trips to the local park to allow children to be physically active and get fresh air. However, the assistant occasionally takes small numbers of children to the park by herself, despite not holding a current paediatric first-aid certificate. This is a further breach of the statutory requirements which has an impact on the safety of children.
- The childminder communicates effectively with parents, sharing daily updates about their children's care and development. She involves parents in identifying next steps to enable them to work towards these together. Parents share that it feels like a team approach, and they appreciate the regular feedback the childminder provides.
- The childminder and her assistant are experienced providers. They have attended picnics with other childminders, organised by the local authority. However, they have not attended any recent training, despite this being readily available to them. They recognise the need for this in order to refresh their knowledge and skills and to share ideas with other practitioners.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

There is not an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
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notify Ofsted of all persons caring for children on the premises to allow for the required suitability checks to be completed	22/01/2024
ensure ratio requirements are adhered to in order to meet the individual needs of all children	22/01/2024
ensure one person with a current paediatric first-aid certificate is available at all times, including accompanying children on outings.	22/01/2024

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

- seek professional development opportunities to refresh the knowledge and skills of those working in the setting to further improve outcomes for children.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2596689
Local authority	Hackney
Inspection number	10290985
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 6
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	12 April 2023

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2021 and lives in the London Borough of Hackney. She employs a full-time assistant. The childminder operates all year round, from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for family holidays and bank holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate level 5 qualification and her assistant is qualified to level 3.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Nicola Baker

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the childminder.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about children's learning and development, with a particular focus on communication and language.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working in the setting.

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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