

Childminder report

Inspection date: 20 April 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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 cannot be fully guaranteed. The childminder has informed Ofsted about her assistant. However, she has not waited for suitability checks to be carried out before leaving her assistant unsupervised with children.

Children make good progress in their learning. They develop close attachments to the childminder and her assistant, who are attentive to their needs. The childminder carefully chooses activities that reflect children's interests. For example, children develop their language skills as they pretend to make the childminder lunch in the role-play kitchen. As a result, children engage in activities for long periods. During group tasks, children enjoy decorating crowns for the King's coronation. They practise using their fine motor skills to carefully pick up sequins and stick them on the crown. The childminder weaves mathematical language into their play to describe the size, colour and numbers of the materials used.

Children move around the setting and make independent choices in their play. As they explore the small-world dinosaurs, children talk about the different sounds they make. They delight in pretending to stomp like a dinosaur. Children develop friendly and respectful relationships. They welcome visitors with a smile and wave goodbye as they leave. Children settle quickly and feel safe and secure in the setting.

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

- The childminder uses an assistant, who, at times, has been left unsupervised with the children. While the childminder has ensured that the assistant has a Disclosure and Barring Service check and appropriate first-aid training, she has failed to ensure that all suitability checks have been completed by Ofsted. This means children's welfare is compromised.
- The childminder fails to ensure that staffing arrangements meet the legal requirement. She counts her assistant within the adult-to-child ratios. However, this is not permitted until the assistant's suitability has been verified by Ofsted.
- The childminder has a good knowledge about what children need to learn. She provides opportunities for children to practise what they know and can do and supports them to take their learning further. For example, as children take part in creative activities, she encourages them to discuss the texture of the feathers. Younger children smile as they feel the feathers on their face and older children talk about how they feel 'soft'. However, at times, she does not fully consider how to adapt group activities to consistently meet the needs of all children so they get the same good-quality learning opportunities.
- Children develop good communication and language skills. They use sign

language to communicate 'please' and 'thank you'. As young children babble, the childminder and her assistant respond appropriately. Children smile as they engage in back-and-forth conversations. The childminder skilfully narrates children's play and models the correct pronunciation of words.

- The childminder and her assistant help children to develop independence in a variety of ways. Children freely choose toys to play with and are encouraged to independently negotiate the step to the garden. Occasionally, the childminder and her assistant complete tasks for the children without encouraging them to try for themselves first. This prevents children from developing even higher levels of independence in their self-help skills.
- Partnerships with parents are positive. Parents report that their children enjoy their time at the setting and often ask to come when at home. The childminder shares children's learning with the parents and they state that 'communication is great'. However, she has not developed strong partnerships with other settings that children attend to enable a shared approach to children's learning.
- The childminder supports children to increase their understanding of diversity and inclusion. Together, they learn about different cultural and religious festivals and look at similarities and differences between themselves and others. This helps them to learn respect and to understand what makes them unique.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder has not ensured that the suitability of her assistant has been fully checked. However, the childminder and her assistant both have a good understanding of what to do should they think a child is at risk of harm. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate abuse and the impact these could have on a child. She is clear on the reporting procedures and has guidance to support her in reporting concerns. The childminder keeps her knowledge up to date by completing regular training and makes sure that her assistant is aware of safeguarding procedures.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
provide Ofsted with the required information to enable all suitability checks to be completed for any proposed assistants	08/05/2023

ensure that only adults who have been deemed suitable are included in staff ratios and left unsupervised with children.	08/05/2023
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- review the planning of group activities to match the age and stage of development of all children
- help children to develop the skills they need to be as independent as they can be
- strengthen partnerships with other settings where children attend to fully support and complement children's care and learning experiences.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2611236
Local authority	Derbyshire
Inspection number	10280858
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	0 to 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	16
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2021 and works in Alfreton, Derbyshire. She operates all year round, from 7am until 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 5. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Carly Parkinson

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 childminder.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the childminder organises her early years provision, including the aims and rationale for her curriculum.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of assistants.
- The childminder and the inspector observed children playing and discussed their learning and development.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder, her assistant and the children.
- Parents shared their views of the 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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