

Childminder report

Inspection date: 22 May 2024

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

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

The childminder has not made sufficient improvement since her last inspection. Consequently, children's safety and welfare continue to be compromised. Some of the breaches of requirements have already been raised within the last six months. For example, the childminder does not always keep a record of children's attendance or manage their behaviour appropriately or effectively.

The childminder has not given sufficient thought to how she will meet the needs of all children when she chooses to apply the exception to the usual ratio requirements. Consequently, children receive a poor standard of care and education. She does not plan and implement a broad, challenging and stimulating curriculum that links closely to children's individual needs. Children do not receive the necessary support from the childminder to engage them and help them make progress. As a result, children spend most of their time wandering around without purpose.

There are weaknesses in the childminder's knowledge and understanding of safeguarding. For example, she does not supervise children appropriately when they are eating, which means she cannot monitor their health and welfare closely and provide emergency first aid quickly if required. The childminder lacks understanding of how to teach children to behave and to recognise and manage their feelings. Children repeatedly fight over toys, shout and scream at each other and ignore the childminder's instructions. This creates a chaotic and noisy environment.

The childminder settles new children sensitively when they arrive and sings nursery rhymes to children when she changes their nappy.

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

- The childminder does not have a secure enough knowledge of the requirements of the early years foundation stage. Although there have been some improvements since the previous inspection, such as to her hygiene practices, there has been a decline in the overall quality of care and education for children.
- The childminder does not recognise the risk of leaving children alone in a room while they are eating. Consequently, she does not ensure that she keeps children within sight and hearing at all times during snack and mealtimes, so she would not notice or be able to respond quickly in the event of a child choking. The childminder does not identify potential concerns about children's welfare or work in close partnership with other safeguarding agencies to obtain relevant information. Additionally, she does not keep an accurate record of children's attendance. These breaches all place children at risk of harm.

- The childminder does not understand how to manage children's behaviour and support their personal, social and emotional development. She does not help children to understand boundaries and does not always model the behaviour she expects of the children. When children snatch books and toys from their friends, she engages in a 'tug of war' with the child over the item and then prises it from their hand. At times, she raises her voice to be heard over the children when they shout at her and she threatens to remove toys from them if they do not play nicely. These ineffective and inappropriate strategies do not help children to learn to recognise and manage their feelings and behaviours, so they continue to argue and fight.
- Due to weaknesses in the childminder's understanding of behaviour management, she uses physical intervention when it is not required or appropriate. For example, when children throw toys, the childminder tries to place and hold the children on her lap, while they shout, cry unhappily and try to get away from her. She frequently picks children up and moves them elsewhere in the room when they do not follow her instructions and at times, she lifts toddlers up by the top of one of their arms. The childminder does not record instances of physical intervention or inform parents of each occasion when she uses this.
- The childminder does not ensure that she meets the needs of the number of children she cares for. While the childminder is busy trying to intervene in children's frequent disagreements, the younger children are often overlooked. They spend much of the time wandering around aimlessly or sitting in a highchair with little to do and without any interaction. The childminder leaves toddlers crying and grizzling in cots for long periods when she is distracted and loses track of the time.
- The childminder identifies the next steps in learning for some of the children and when they might benefit from additional support. However, she does not plan and provide an ambitious curriculum that builds on what the children know and can do. She does not provide the extra attention and interaction that some children need to engage them. Children quickly lose focus, so their behaviour deteriorates and they spend most of the time flitting quickly between the toys.
- The childminder does not obtain enough information about children from their parents when the children start attending, to ensure she can meet their needs. This means that she does not know enough about the new children's learning and development, to enable her to support and engage them in their activities.
- The childminder has appropriate toys and resources for the children to choose to play with. Children fit pieces together to build a track for the toy trains and mould play dough using their hands.

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?

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

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

	Due date
improve the supervision of children while they are eating, to monitor them adequately and prioritise their welfare	23/05/2024
keep an accurate daily record of the names and times of children's attendance at the setting	23/05/2024
improve knowledge and understanding of how to identify concerns about a child's welfare and work in partnership with other agencies to protect children from harm	07/06/2024
improve knowledge of how to manage children's behaviour effectively, to help children to understand the boundaries and expectations	07/06/2024
ensure physical intervention is only used when appropriate	07/06/2024
keep a record of occasions when physical intervention is used and ensure that parents are informed on the same day	07/06/2024
ensure children's individual needs are met at all times, including when exceeding the usual ratios	07/06/2024
work closely with parents from the start to obtain all relevant information about their children, to help get to know the children and plan how to support their individual learning and development and their care needs.	07/06/2024

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

	Due date
plan and deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum that builds on what children know and can do and helps them to make good progress in their learning	21/06/2024
provide targeted support for children who require additional help, to help them to make progress in their learning and development.	21/06/2024

Setting details

Unique reference number	2627235
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	10333596
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 11
Total number of places	5
Number of children on roll	9
Date of previous inspection	12 January 2024

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2021. She lives in Exeter, Devon. The childminder is available to care for children Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6pm, all year round. At times, the childminder works with an assistant and another registered childminder. She offers funded places to provide free education for children aged two, three and four.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Sarah Madge

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 provider.
- The childminder spoke to the inspector about children's learning and development and reflected on an activity she had planned for the children.
- Children spoke with the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder and children.
- Parents shared their views of the setting with the inspector.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.
- The childminder spoke with the inspector about the day-to-day running of 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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