

Childminder report

Inspection date: 10 February 2022

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
The quality of education	Inadequate
Behaviour and attitudes	Inadequate
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

Weaknesses in the childminder's knowledge and practice mean that children's safety and welfare are compromised. She has not ensured that her assistant has up-to-date knowledge. The childminder has not thoroughly considered all risks in the rooms children have access to. Children's well-being is compromised during mealtimes. Furthermore, their good health is not promoted.

Children do not experience a challenging curriculum that extends their learning. They spend their time playing with toys. However, the childminder and her assistant do not offer children challenging or stimulating experiences so that they make good progress in their learning. For example, while reading books, older children are asked simple questions they already know the answer to.

The childminder offers caring interactions towards the children. She plays down on the floor with them so they can hear her speak clearly. Children invite the childminder and her assistant into their play, for example when they are pretending to be police officers or doctors. This helps them to develop appropriate early imaginative skills. Children enjoy singing songs and dancing. This helps them to develop some language skills. Children have suitable opportunities to gain an awareness of mathematical concepts. They recognise numerals and shapes when playing puzzles.

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

- The childminder does not have secure knowledge of the requirements essential to meet her registration. She has not ensured that assistants have the required safeguarding knowledge. The childminder failed to record incidents where physical intervention was used to ensure the safety of children. This is a breach of the safeguarding and welfare requirements.
- The childminder does not keep her premises hygienic enough to maintain children's good health. For example, there are stains on the couch and dried food on doors. Babies and young children put toys in their mouth that others have also mouthed. Furthermore, the childminder does not consistently promote handwashing before meals. This fails to prevent risk of cross-infection and increases the risk of passing on germs.
- The childminder has not fully considered all hazards to children in her home. For example, young children climb on small pieces of play furniture that tumble on top of them. Despite the childminder checking sleeping babies in pushchairs, she has failed to identify the limited ventilation within the room. This does not assure children's good health while sleeping.
- During the inspection, babies and children were left eating food unsupervised. This puts them at risk of choking.

- The childminder does not evaluate her practice accurately, in particular the quality of education. She knows what she wants children to learn but fails to implement this in a calm and organised way. As a result, children do not engage in activities for long periods of time. For example, they wander off during singing time and flit from one toy to the next. This limits children's ability to build on their concentration skills needed for when they go to pre-school or school.
- The childminder knows about the children's interests and provides some suitable resources that they like to play with. This helps children to build some confidence while in her home. Children are learning some independence skills. The childminder allows older children time to put on dress-up clothes by themselves before she offers to help them. Younger children can choose toys that are at their level to play with.
- The childminder works with parents to support children's needs. She identifies children who are not progressing in line with age-related expectations, and signposts parents to access information and guidance.
- The childminder talks about how she uses the local area, so children have appropriate opportunities to learn about nature and their local community. For example, they are taken on picnics to the local country park and visit the zoo.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Children's well-being is undermined because risk assessments are ineffective to keep them safe. Furthermore, the childminder's assistant does not have sufficient knowledge of wider safeguarding issues, such as 'Prevent' duty. Despite this, the childminder has suitable safeguarding knowledge. She is aware of the concerns a child may be at risk of radicalisation and other types of abuse and neglect. Both the childminder and her assistant know how to report an allegation made about each other or a household member.

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
train all staff so they have a secure knowledge of wider safeguarding issues	25/03/2022
ensure the premises, equipment and resources are fit for purpose, hygienic and suitable for the children attending	25/02/2022
take steps to assess, minimise and remove all risks and hazards to children	25/02/2022

ensure babies and young children are provided with a sleeping environment that promotes their good health	25/02/2022
ensure children are adequately supervised during mealtimes	25/02/2022
keep a record of any occasions when physical intervention is used to ensure the safety of children or others	25/02/2022
improve the quality of teaching to ensure all children receive consistently meaningful and challenging learning experiences to prepare them for the next stage of their education.	11/03/2022

Setting details

Unique reference number	2651748
Local authority	Central Bedfordshire
Inspection number	10221123
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 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	13
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2021 and lives in Marston Moretaine. She operates all year round from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder works with an assistant. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Elke Rockey

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.
- This inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following information received about the provider.
- The childminder talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want the children to learn.
- The inspector talked to the childminder and the assistant at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the quality of education being provided indoors, and assessed the impact that this was having on children's learning.
- The childminder and the inspector observed an activity and evaluated this.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of household members.
- Children talked with the inspector during the inspection.

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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