

Childminder report

Inspection date: 4 October 2023

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

Safeguarding is not effective. The breaches of the early years foundation stage have a significant impact on children's health and welfare. For example, the area where children's food is prepared is not hygienic. The childminder does not consistently follow good hygiene practices or encourage children to do so. In addition, the childminder lacks knowledge of the local safeguarding partnership procedures. This lack of knowledge could impact on her ability to report concerns about children swiftly to the appropriate agencies. She is also unclear about how to respond to allegations made against herself or a household member. Ofsted have taken enforcement action in relation to these breaches.

Despite this, children show they have secure relationships with the childminder, including those who are new to the setting. Parents say the childminder is very welcoming and she has helped to build their children's confidence. Children's behaviour is positive, and they benefit from the praise given by the childminder.

The childminder does not use assessments effectively to plan purposeful learning experiences for children. As such, she is unable to identify areas where children may need further support. Children spend the majority of their morning wandering around the playroom or they play alone. The childminder has not completed the progress check when children are aged between two and three years. In addition, she has not considered or sought advice from other professionals when children show difficulty in their communication and language skills. This does not help to prepare children for the next stages in their learning.

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

- The childminder does not provide a challenging curriculum for children to make good progress. Although she is aware of the need to prepare children for the next stages in their learning, she does not implement clear, purposeful plans for this. This does not help children to develop a love or enthusiasm for learning, or build foundations for the future.
- Progress made by children is incidental. The childminder does not engage with older children for extended lengths of time and does not teach them through play or planned activities. For example, children play alone and in silence for the majority of the morning. On occasion, the childminder will ask children to share their knowledge of a colour and will attempt to extend their self-chosen imaginative play. Babies spend a lot of time in the high chair with snacks and are not stimulated.
- Children are not deeply engaged in any learning. Although they move freely around the childminder's home, there are no opportunities for them to develop critical thinking skills or develop new skills. In addition, the playroom spaces

used by children are very cluttered and children cannot access resources until the childminder moves things out of the way.

- Assessments are not used effectively. Although the childminder has knowledge of what the progress check at two years is used for, she has not completed them or shared them with parents. In addition, the childminder has not established partnership working with other professionals. She has not considered seeking support from other agencies, where there may be potential delay in children's learning.
- Food preparation areas are unclean and unhygienic. The kitchen area where babies' bottles, children's food and drinks are prepared, is cluttered with recycling, leftover food, pet food and unwashed laundry. The childminder acknowledges this is unsuitable. This is a breach of the early years foundation stage requirements and has an impact on children's health.
- The childminder does not follow good self-care practices or promote healthy eating. For example, children do not wash their hands before they eat and have unhealthy snacks, such as jam biscuits. Children are not offered fresh drinking water. The childminder does not wash her hands after she changes babies' nappies or wear any protective clothing to prevent cross-infection. This does not help children to learn about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and also has an impact on their health.
- Despite this, babies show they feel secure with the childminder. She knows when they need their bottle and provides cuddles when they show they are tired. The childminder praises children and encourages them to be kind. For example, she helps older children to share crayons and models good manners.
- The childminder has not considered ways to evaluate the setting to ensure requirements are met. As a result, there are several breaches of the early years foundation stage. In addition, the childminder has not accessed any professional development to continually improve her skills and knowledge to work with children. This has had a significant impact on the quality of the provision for children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder does not have a robust understanding of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. This has led to several breaches which have a potential impact on children's health, safety and welfare. The childminder demonstrates knowledge of some of the potential signs and symptoms of abuse and knows how to record these. However, she is unclear on who she will report these concerns too. In addition, the childminder does not have the information or knowledge of the role of the local authority designated officer. This could significantly impact on her ability to report concerns about children swiftly to the relevant agencies or respond timely if an allegation is made against herself or household member.

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
develop her knowledge and understanding of the local safeguarding partnership procedures and implement these into the policy, to ensure any concerns are reported swiftly, including concerns about children and allegations against herself	11/10/2023
ensure children's good health is consistently promoted, specifically in regard to the meals children are offered and provide children with fresh drinking water throughout the day	11/10/2023
improve the overall hygiene in the setting and ensure there are suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food and babies' bottles	11/10/2023
develop ways to reflect and evaluate the provision, including areas for professional development, to ensure the requirements are met and improvements are made to raise quality.	11/10/2023

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

	Due date
improve the curriculum and quality of teaching, to ensure children engage in purposeful learning, which helps them to make good progress	29/11/2023
improve children's access to enjoyable activities that help them to play, explore, think critically and practise new skills, and consider the impact of overcrowding resources in areas that children play in	29/11/2023

ensure assessments are completed and used effectively, specifically the progress check at age two to identify areas where children may need further support.	29/11/2023
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Setting details

Unique reference number	2655755
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10310044
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 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	8
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2021 and lives in the Belmont area of Durham. She operates all year round from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder closes for one week at Christmas. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6. She works with one full time assistant. The childminder provides funded early education places for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Lorains

Inspection activities

- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- This was the first 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 her evaluation of the setting.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- A joint observation was completed by the childminder and inspector, indoors during children's self-chosen play.
- The inspector held a discussion with the childminder in relation to the leadership and management of the setting. She looked at relevant documentation such as evidence of the childminder's suitability to work with children.
- The childminder obtained written feedback from parents for 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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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

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