

Childminder report

Inspection date:

9 September 2025

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

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 continues to breach several aspects of the legal requirements of the early years foundation stage. Despite actions set by Ofsted, and high levels of input from other professionals, there are repeated breaches from previous inspections and visits, including breaches of the safeguarding and welfare requirements. These breaches continue to have a significant impact on children's learning, development and safety.

The lack of an effective curriculum means that children do not engage deeply in activities. Experiences are not exciting or challenging for children and they lose interest quickly and move on. For instance, the childminder pours blocks on the carpet for children. She says some shape names and asks children what colours they can see. Some children lack the vocabulary to answer her questions and others do not seem to understand when she discusses shape names and provide a different, unrelated answer. Other children show confusion about which blocks they can play with and become upset when the childminder removes the resources.

The childminder has successfully made some improvements. She has considered and minimised risks in the indoor environment in areas used by children. Indoor spaces are clean, hygienic and suitable for childcare to take place. The childminder knows how to meet children's individual care needs, such as their dietary requirements. Despite the weaknesses, children demonstrate they feel settled in the childminder's care.

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

- The childminder has not taken action to ensure that any assistants that she employs have a secure understanding of the safeguarding policies in the setting. For example, she had not ensured that assistants have the knowledge to recognise signs that may indicate that a child is at risk of abuse or neglect. As employed assistants spend time alone with children, and complete care tasks, this is a cause for concern. In addition, the childminder had not ensured that assistants are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against the childminder or a household member. This means that safeguarding concerns may not be identified or reported swiftly.
- Despite continued regulatory input from Ofsted, the childminder continues to demonstrate a lack of understanding of both the learning and development and safeguarding and welfare requirements. Children do not receive good levels of care or high-quality learning opportunities.
- The childminder does not ensure that children benefit from high-quality interactions or teaching that focuses on the areas in which they need to learn. For instance, activities she provides are not exciting or interesting. Children

begin to show interest in singing and stories, however, the childminder stops part-way through, and they quickly leave the group. Younger children show they are keen to listen to a story, however, the level of language used is too complex and children lose interest again.

- The childminder completes the required progress check when children are aged between two and three years. However, she does not use this to identify areas where children need further support and does not understand her responsibility to make referrals to other professionals when needed. Assessments of children's progress are not accurate and demonstrate that the childminder does not have a clear picture of children's overall development. This has a negative impact on the effectiveness of her teaching.
- Children who speak English as an additional language (EAL) are not supported to make good progress. The childminder does not focus on supporting them to develop their vocabulary in English, despite being aware that they need to develop their spoken English further. This does not help to fully prepare children to start school and impacts on their ability to communicate with others.
- The childminder has updated her knowledge and understanding of the correct procedures to follow for a range of child protection and safeguarding concerns about children and families. In addition, she has ensured that the indoor premises, in areas used by children and areas for food preparation, are fit for purpose and suitable for childminding. Children are settled and appear comfortable with the childminder and her assistant.

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
ensure that all members of staff have a comprehensive understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures, including a full understanding of the process to follow in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff	18/09/2025

improve skills and knowledge to ensure the requirements of the early years foundation stage are met and raise the overall quality of the provision to a good standard for children.	18/09/2025
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To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
improve teaching and the sequence of the curriculum, to ensure that planning is sharply focused on supporting children's development and meets their individual learning needs	30/09/2025
ensure that children who speak EAL have sufficient opportunities to develop a good standard of language skills in English	30/09/2025
ensure assessments are completed and used effectively, specifically the progress check at age two, to identify areas where children may need further support.	30/09/2025

Setting details

Unique reference number	2655755
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10409492
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	12
Number of children on roll	18
Date of previous inspection	15 May 2025

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 Saturday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder closes for two weeks at Christmas. The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification at level 6. She works with an assistant.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Michelle Lorains

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The inspector held a discussion with the childminder in relation to the leadership and management of the setting. She looked at relevant documentation and discussed the childminder's and her assistants' suitability to work with children.
- The childminder provided the inspector with 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
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