

Childminder report

Inspection date: 7 May 2024

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

The childminder has not fulfilled her responsibility to provide Ofsted with the required information so that relevant checks can be carried out to ensure the suitability of adults working in the setting. This is a breach of requirements and compromises the safety and welfare of children.

Despite this, children are happy and settled. They have good relationships with the childminder, who is kind, attentive and knows their needs well. Children are highly engaged and focused as they explore using their senses. For example, children are keen to explore the garden. They use magnifying lenses to examine the bluebells and dandelions. Children fill buckets with water and soil and spend time mixing and stirring. They begin to understand weight as they attempt to lift the heavy buckets. The childminder supports children to learn through their own trial and error. For example, they work out that they cannot use a container with holes in to collect water.

The childminder plans opportunities for children to develop their small-muscle skills. Children explore the toys on offer. For example, they squeeze, prod and roll play dough, and carefully stack blocks. This also helps to develop their hand-eye coordination. Children learn how to play together, and any disagreements are resolved quickly with the support and intervention of the childminder.

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

- Adults whose suitability has not been checked have unsupervised access to children. As such, children's safety is not assured. However, the childminder now understands the actions she must take to fulfil her role and responsibilities.
- The childminder plans a curriculum which prioritises children's communication development. She understands the importance of developing children's language skills. The childminder plans activities based on children's interests and knows what they need to learn next. Children benefit from plenty of opportunities to share stories. The childminder helps children to learn new words, models correct pronunciation and sings songs with children so that they gain an understanding of rhyme. Children and the childminder engage in conversations at every opportunity. This helps children to make good progress in their learning.
- The childminder provides a varied and weekly routine that excites children. Children enjoy regular trips to the local toddler groups. The childminder uses these visits to provide some valuable opportunities for children to extend and develop their social interactions.
- Children play together well and have good social skills. They are tolerant and respectful of each other. This is a key focus of the childminder, who teaches children to take turns, share and value their friendships. Children learn how to

use good manners. For example, they say 'please' and 'thank you' and receive praise from the childminder when they do. This helps to build children's confidence and self-esteem.

- Children benefit from daily opportunities to be physically active and to spend time outdoors in the fresh air. However, the childminder does not consistently promote children's health and hygiene. For instance, she does not encourage children to wash their hands before they eat or make sure that the changing mat is cleaned after children's nappies are changed.
- The childminder completes all mandatory training. She keeps herself up to date through reading and participating in childminder forums to discuss activities and ideas. This enables her to widen her knowledge and the experiences she is able to offer children in her care. However, the childminder's knowledge and understanding of what and when to notify Ofsted of any changes or significant events is not secure.
- The childminder understands the local procedures for reporting concerns about a child. She is vigilant when supervising children during mealtimes to ensure that they are always in sight. This is so she can respond to their needs swiftly.
- The childminder informs parents about their children's day, including about the activities and experiences they receive and how parents can share their children's learning at home. Parents say how much they value the childminder's support for their children and themselves. They comment on how much their children have learned since joining the setting.

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?

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

	Due date
ensure that Ofsted is provided with the required information regarding adults that work at the setting, so that relevant suitability checks can be carried out	16/05/2024
make sure that anyone whose suitability has not been checked does not have unsupervised contact with children being cared for	08/05/2024

improve knowledge of significant events that must be notified to Ofsted.	16/05/2024
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To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- follow good hygiene practices more consistently to prevent cross-contamination and help children to learn good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2665724
Local authority	Durham
Inspection number	10339717
Type of provision	Childminder
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register
Day care type	Childminder
Age range of children at time of inspection	1 to 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	12
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2022 and lives in Durham. She operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

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 inspector carried out a discussion with the childminder on how the curriculum is delivered.
- The inspector observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. She spoke with children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation with the childminder.
- The inspector held a meeting with the childminder and looked at relevant documentation.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents.

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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