

Childminder report

Inspection date: 17 April 2024

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

Numerous breaches to the requirements of the childminder's registration mean that children are not kept safe. The childminder does not notice, or address, things in the setting that pose a risk to children, for example broken furniture with sharp edges and exposed rusty screws. Children are placed to sleep in cots that are unsafe. The childminder allows assistants, whose suitability has not yet been checked, to spend time alone with children. The childminder and her assistants do not supervise children well enough. This includes when children are eating or playing outside. The childminder and her assistants do not know what to do if they have child protection concerns. They do not follow the correct procedures when allegations are made against adults who work with children. This places children at risk of harm.

The childminder, her assistants and children do not wash their hands after children use the toilet or have their nappies changed. They do not wash their hands before or after preparing, serving or eating food. Tables are not cleaned. As a result, children play with food crumbs that are left over. This does not promote children's good health, and it increases the risk of the spread of infection.

The childminder does not provide educational programmes that support children's learning and development. There are limited resources available for children to play with. Activities do not take account of children's interests or starting points. As a result, children wander around, disengaged from learning. Older children run around and climb on furniture. Babies are often distressed. This causes a chaotic environment in which children do not feel secure.

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

- The childminder and her assistants do not provide an environment that helps children to focus on learning. There are limited resources available. The play kitchen, doll's house and workbench have no equipment for children to use in them. Some children enjoy singing with the adults. However, adult-led activities are not planned to build on what children already know and can do. For example, a mathematics activity is too difficult for younger children and too easy for older children. As a result, children become disruptive or disengaged from learning.
- The childminder explains that she is the key person for all the children. However, babies who are new to the setting are cared for by her assistants. Babies frequently cry and become increasingly distressed. Assistants rock and bounce them in pushchairs and baby bouncers for extended periods of time. They do not recognise that children are not going to sleep. They carry babies for extended periods of time, facing away from them. They do not engage in back-

and-forth interactions or try to engage them in play. As a result, babies do not develop settled relationships with the childminder.

- The childminder does not minimise risks to children. Children climb on damaged garden furniture. Broken tables and shelving, with exposed sharp edges, are left in children's play spaces. Children play with dirty rainwater. Sleeping arrangements are unsafe. A travel cot has tears in the fabric. A wooden cot has only three sides. The open side is pushed against a wall. This places children at risk of injury.
- Poor hygiene practices increase the risk of the spread of infection between children and adults. Hands are not washed after toileting. The mats that children are changed on are not cleaned in between uses. Potties are not emptied or cleaned after use. Hands are not washed before or after eating. Food is not reheated enough to ensure any harmful bacteria are removed before it is served to children. This does not promote children's good health.
- Children are not always well supervised. There is not always an adult within sight and hearing of children who are eating. This means that adults would not be able to intervene quickly if a child were to choke. Children play outside alone. Young children climb up the slide steps. Adults would not be able to intervene quickly to keep them safe should an accident or near miss occur. Assistants, whose suitability to care for children has not yet been checked, spend time alone with children. They change children's nappies and take them upstairs for a sleep, without the childminder's supervision. This places children at risk of harm.
- The childminder and her assistants have a poor understanding of safeguarding issues. They do not follow local safeguarding partnership procedures. Allegations against adults working with children are not reported to the relevant statutory bodies. Records regarding allegations are not sufficiently detailed to help keep children safe.
- The childminder attends training and provides her assistants with supervision and support. However, this has not successfully raised the quality of care and education provided. The childminder has failed to identify that the breaches to the requirements of her registration place children at risk of harm.

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
implement the key-person role so that all children's care is tailored to meet their individual needs, and children are able to build settled relationships with key staff	03/05/2024
take all reasonable steps to ensure children are not exposed to risks	03/05/2024
make sleeping arrangements safe, including providing cots that are in good condition	03/05/2024
implement effective hygiene practices that promote the good health of children and help to minimise or stop the spread of infection	03/05/2024
ensure that you are confident that staff preparing food are competent to do so in a safe and hygienic way	03/05/2024
ensure children are adequately supervised at all times, including while eating, and that they are usually within your sight and hearing	03/05/2024
do not allow anyone whose suitability has not yet been confirmed by Ofsted to have unsupervised contact with the children being cared for	03/05/2024
ensure you, and your assistants, understand safeguarding issues and the correct procedures to be followed, in line with local safeguarding children partnership procedures, in the event of an allegation or concerns about a child's welfare	03/05/2024
maintain records, particularly in relation to safeguarding concerns, to enable the safe and efficient management of the setting and children's needs to be met	03/05/2024

ensure that you, and your assistants, have the skills and knowledge to provide good-quality care and education, and that induction, supervision and support arrangements ensure the quality of children's learning and development opportunities continually improve.	03/05/2024
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To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
plan and deliver educational programmes that support all children to make good progress across the areas of learning, including interesting and engaging learning opportunities, which take account of children's interests and build on what they already know and can do	29/05/2024

Setting details

Unique reference number	2666942
Local authority	Sheffield
Inspection number	10260180
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 4
Total number of places	16
Number of children on roll	16
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2022. She operates in the Dore area of Sheffield and works alongside another registered childminder. The childminders hold a suitable childminding qualification. They also employ several assistants. They open from Monday to Sunday all year round, from 7am to 7pm, and provide overnight care. They offer funded early education places for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Rebecca Miall

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 viewed the setting and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The childminder joined the inspector on a learning walk and talked to the inspector about their curriculum and what they want their children to learn.
- Children spoke to, or communicated with, the inspector during the inspection.
- The inspector talked to assistants at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the childminder, her assistants 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.

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

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
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