

Childminder report

Inspection date:

12 March 2025

Overall effectiveness

Requires improvement

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

Personal development

Requires improvement

Leadership and management

Requires improvement

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision requires improvement

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They develop positive interactions with her. Children approach her for cuddles and reassurance. This means they feel safe and happy in her care. Children are settled in their routines and know what to expect next. For example, at nappy changing time, children readily lay down on the mat without prompts.

Children enjoy the activities available to them. They concentrate for short periods at their chosen task. They respond positively to the praise they receive, and as a result, they develop confidence to have a go and try to do things for themselves. For example, they use the crayons to make marks on the paper. While making cookies, they enthusiastically stir the mixture and roll the dough. This helps to strengthen their small hand muscles needed for future writing. However, as the range of activities available to children is limited and the childminder does not always extend their learning, they do not consistently make the best possible progress in their development.

Children behave well. They listen and respond to the childminder's instructions and expectations. She regularly praises their positive behaviours. This helps to raise children's self-esteem.

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

- The childminder's understanding of the requirements of the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage' is not strong enough. As a result, she has failed to notify Ofsted of a significant event that may have had an impact upon her childminding provision. This is a breach of a registration requirement.
- The childminder has some understanding of the different things she wants children to learn. However, she does not use this knowledge to plan and implement a curriculum that is broad and interesting. Overall, the curriculum lacks depth and does not build on children's existing skills and knowledge.
- Overall, the childminder supports children's communication and language development effectively. She introduces some new words to help enhance children's vocabulary. That said, the childminder has the television on when children are present. This tends to distract children, and meaningful interactions do not always take place. This means that children are not making as much progress as possible.
- Children have some opportunities to listen to stories and look at books. However, they do not have consistent access to books as most of them are stored on a high shelf. This limits the opportunities they have to learn how to handle and respect books and develop a love of reading.

- The childminder promotes independence. She supports children to wash their hands before meals and teaches children to keep safe when using the knife to chop the fruit. The childminder is aware of children's individual care routines. She knows when children are feeling hungry, tired or in need of a nappy change. The childminder quickly responds, which helps children to feel comfortable.
- Children benefit from regular trips out into the local community. They visit the parks and museums and walk in the woods. This helps children to develop their language, physical and social skills. The childminder thoroughly considers any risks they might encounter when on outings.
- The childminder keeps her mandatory training up to date, including her paediatric first aid. She is keen to improve her practice and develop her professional knowledge. For example, she is currently completing a level 3 childcare qualification.
- The childminder shares information with parents about what their children have been doing at the setting. She also finds out from parents about what children have been doing at home. However, the childminder has not considered ways to gather views from parents to help identify what she does well or areas for improvement.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interest first.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

To meet the requirements of the early years foundation stage, the provider must:

	Due date
develop a curriculum that is broad, interesting and builds on what children already know and can do.	29/03/2025

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should:

- provide more opportunities for children to access books to help them learn how to handle and respect books and to develop a love of reading
- minimise distractions during play to support children to maintain attention and get the most from learning opportunities
- consider ways to gather views from parents to help identify what is done well and areas for improvement.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2680821
Local authority	Northumberland
Inspection number	10393042
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 9
Total number of places	10
Number of children on roll	10
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2022 and lives in Glanton, Northumberland. The childminder provides funded education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Janet Fairhurst

Inspection activities

- 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 the children during the inspection.
- The inspector completed a joint evaluation of an activity with the childminder.
- The inspector held a meeting with the childminder and looked at relevant documentation.

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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