

Childminder report

Inspection date: 13 October 2021

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education	Inadequate
Behaviour and attitudes	Inadequate
Personal development	Inadequate
Leadership and management	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Good

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

The childminder does not maintain all of the records that she is legally obliged to. This does not help her to ensure children's health and safety. She does not record important information about children's allergies to particular foods. She does not keep a record of accidents and injuries to children while in her care, or of the first-aid treatment that she administers. The childminder gives children medicine without obtaining written permission from parents. She does not record details of the medication she gives. This significantly compromises children's safety and welfare.

The childminder provides plentiful books and toys. Children have extended opportunities to explore freely. However, the childminder plans activities without checking what children can do and are ready to learn next. Two-year-old children work to complete a threading activity, but they do not have the finger strength and dexterity that they need. Children fail to complete the task and this does not help them to feel eager to participate and learn. The childminder speaks to children in a friendly way and they welcome her company. However, she does not promote their language development consistently enough. For example, she does not model the correct pronunciation of the 'baby words' children say. This does not help children to extend their vocabulary and they do not make the progress that they are capable of in learning to communicate. Children are unsure what the childminder's rules for their behaviour are because she applies them inconsistently. Children become challenging and they sometimes hit other children. This does not help children to feel really safe and secure.

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

- The experienced and well-qualified childminder does not make sure that her provision meets the statutory requirements. Her record-keeping is generally poor. The childminder compromises children's health and safety because she does not record important information about their dietary requirements.
- The childminder does not maintain a record of accidents or injuries that children sustain while they are in her care. She does not record the first-aid treatment that she administers. This makes the childminder's recall of important facts less reliable should a child's condition deteriorate. The omission also makes it more difficult for the childminder to identify risks and to prevent similar accidents happening again.
- The childminder administers medicine without obtaining written permission from parents or carers. She does not keep a record of the frequency or amount of medication that she gives. This means that the childminder does not monitor children's illnesses and medication well enough. This puts children's health and safety at risk.

- The childminder keeps a record of the days when children attend her provision. However, she does not record their hours of attendance, as required.
- The childminder does not promote children's communication and language effectively. For example, she knows that some children are less confident about speaking. However, she poses narrow questions in quick succession and asks children to repeat words and phrases. Children do not respond. They learn not to participate in conversations.
- The childminder does not make her expectations for children's behaviour clear enough. This, combined with not enough stimulating things to do, leads to children testing out the childminder's boundaries for their conduct. The childminder distracts children by engaging them in physical play, such as tickling. However, children seek to extend this play. They become more excited and their behaviour deteriorates further. This does not help children learn to manage their emotions or to develop self-control.
- Children have fun playing with a board book that can be used as a series of masks. They look through the eye holes and the childminder tells them which character she can see. This helps to promote children's positive attitudes to books. The childminder makes shopping lists for children to use in their role play. This helps children to understand that symbols and written words carry meaning.
- Children ride scoot-along vehicles and this helps to promote their strength and balance. The childminder encourages children to drink water. She tells them why it is important. The childminder takes account of ongoing guidance regarding COVID-19. Children wash their hands regularly. Therefore, children develop habits that contribute to their good health.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

Weaknesses in leadership and management mean that children's health and safety is not assured. The childminder does not maintain essential records to protect children. The childminder demonstrates some knowledge of local child protection procedures. For example, she knows what to do if an allegation is made against her or a member of her household. However, the childminder's generally poor knowledge of requirements means that she is not fully alert to signs that a child may be suffering abuse elsewhere. This potentially leaves children at risk of further harm. The childminder checks indoor and outdoor spaces for possible hazards before children arrive. For example, she checks that the gate is fastened so that children cannot leave the garden unaccompanied.

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
improve knowledge of safeguarding in order to be able to respond swiftly to signs that children are at risk of abuse or neglect	29/10/2021
keep a record of children's individual dietary requirements and act on these accordingly	29/10/2021
keep a written record of accidents and injuries to children and of any first aid administered	29/10/2021
keep a written record when medication is administered	29/10/2021
maintain a daily record of children's hours of attendance	29/10/2021
ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a consistent and appropriate way so that children learn to respect other people and know that some behaviour is unacceptable	29/10/2021
improve knowledge and understanding of language development in order to ensure that activities and interactions help children to extend their vocabulary and communicate confidently	29/10/2021
tailor the curriculum to what children are ready to learn next so that they are challenged and make good progress.	29/10/2021

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY281981
Local authority	Blackburn with Darwen
Inspection number	10205190
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	6
Number of children on roll	11
Date of previous inspection	9 July 2019

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2004 and lives in Darwen. Her provision operates all year round, from 7am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds a qualification at level 3. She provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Susan King

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 her evaluation of the childminder.
- The childminder spoke with the inspector about her plans for the day's activities.
- The inspector observed interactions between the childminder and the children.
- The inspector spoke with children. She took account of their responses to activities.
- Documents used in the childminder's setting were sampled by the inspector. The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of the childminder and members of her household aged 16 years and over.

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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