

Childminder report

Inspection date:

4 October 2023

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

The quality of education

Requires improvement

Behaviour and attitudes

Requires improvement

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 ensure that the assistant looking after children has been vetted appropriately. In addition, she allows the assistant to have unsupervised contact with children. These weaknesses mean that children's safety cannot be assured.

Overall, the childminder has built positive relationships with the children and ensures that their care needs are met. This helps children to settle in well and feel confident to explore and learn. Although the childminder maintains positive interactions with children, she does not ensure that this is consistent and meets the learning needs of all children. Children who have been identified as having speech and language delay do not receive the right level of support they need to make better progress.

The childminder is generally clear about the knowledge and skills that she wants the children to acquire before they move on to nursery. Children enjoy taking part in regular reading activities to help support their early literacy development. However, the childminder has not ensured that her assistant supports children's learning effectively.

Overall, the childminder sets high expectations for children's behaviour. However, she has not ensured that the assistant follows the same strategies to help provide consistency for the children. This does not support children to maintain good behaviour at all times.

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

- Self-evaluation is ineffective. The childminder does not comply with all requirements of registration, and the quality of the provision has declined since the last inspection. She has failed to provide Ofsted with information about a new assistant working on the premises so that their suitability can be assessed. In addition, she has not undertaken any checks herself to assess whether the assistant is suitable for the role. These weaknesses compromise children's safety.
- The childminder's arrangements for monitoring the assistant's practice are ineffective. The assistant working with children does not have a secure understanding of child protection. For example, they are unable to identify when there are concerns about a child's welfare and the correct procedures to take. In addition, they do not know what to do if there are safeguarding concerns about any adults working with children. This means that the childminder has not ensured that the assistant understands their responsibilities to keep children safe. This has a negative impact on children's welfare and could potentially place

them at risk of harm.

- Partnership with parents is not fully effective. The childminder does not share information well with all parents, particularly those of children identified as having additional learning needs. As a result, children who need additional help with their learning do not receive the right level of support to help them make good progress in their learning and development.
- Overall, the childminder knows how children learn and implements a broad curriculum. She takes the children out on regular trips, including visits to the library to look at a wide range of books. Children take part in lots of activities, such as filling and pouring sand from containers, which helps to support their fine motor skills. However, the childminder has not identified and addressed the inconsistencies in the assistant's teaching. For instance, the assistant expects children aged one to two years who are unable to hold a pencil properly to copy shapes and spell their names. This unrealistic expectation of children sets them up to fail.
- The childminder and her assistant have formed secure bonds with the children and give appropriate cuddles to reassure them. Overall, the childminder sets clear boundaries and expectations for behaviour through age-appropriate strategies, such as distractions and explanations. However, on occasion, when children display unwanted behaviour, such as refusing to share, the assistant is quick to say 'no' to them without explaining the importance of sharing and turn taking. This gives inconsistent messages and does not help children to understand the expectations fully.
- Children's physical well-being is supported well. The childminder encourages parents to send in healthy meals and snacks. She and her assistant encourage children to wash their hands and explain why they need to do so. However, the childminder does not implement robust safeguarding procedures to help support children's welfare.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder does not follow effective recruitment processes to assess the suitability of any assistants working with children. She does not ensure that any assistant left alone to care for children holds a valid paediatric first-aid qualification to deal with any accidents and medical emergencies. The childminder does not encourage two-way information sharing with all parents, particularly when children have sustained injuries at home, to support their welfare and well-being. These weaknesses mean that children's safety is not guaranteed. The childminder understands the procedures of the local safeguarding partners for raising a safeguarding concern. However, she has not ensured that the assistant demonstrates a secure knowledge and understanding of safeguarding.

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
develop a secure knowledge and an understanding of changes that must be notified to Ofsted, particularly in relation to any new assistants working with children	30/10/2023
ensure that any assistant whose suitability has not been checked is not left unsupervised with children	30/10/2023
implement effective recruitment processes to ensure that assistants working with children are suitable to carry out their roles and responsibilities	30/10/2023
ensure that any assistant working with children demonstrates a secure understanding of child protection, including how to identify and escalate safeguarding concerns about a child	30/10/2023
ensure that any assistant working with children understands the correct procedures to follow if there are concerns about any adults working with children	30/10/2023
ensure that any assistant left alone to care for children holds a valid paediatric first-aid qualification	30/10/2023
establish an effective arrangement for the supervision and training of the assistant to help address gaps in their practice and teaching skills	30/10/2023
improve information sharing with all parents to help ensure that children's care and learning needs met, particularly those identified as having additional learning needs.	30/10/2023

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

- make better use of self-evaluation to identify and address areas to improve.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY408503
Local authority	Bexley
Inspection number	10311050
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 7
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	10
Date of previous inspection	27 April 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2010. She lives in Thamesmead within the London Borough of Bexley. The childminder works with assistants and operates from 8am until 6pm, all year round. The childminder holds a qualification at level 5. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Josephine Afful

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.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector observed interactions between the childminder, her assistant and children and assessed the impact these have on children's learning.
- The inspector discussed the curriculum intent for children's learning and how the early years provision is structured with the childminder.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder, her assistant and children at appropriate times.
- Some parents were spoken to during the inspection, and their views were taken into account.

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.

If you are not happy with the inspection or the report, you can [complain to Ofsted](#).

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023