

Childminder report

Inspection date: 11 March 2020

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education	Inadequate
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Behaviour and attitudes	Inadequate
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Personal development	Inadequate
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Leadership and management	Inadequate
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Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Outstanding
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

Children's individual needs are not consistently met, and their safety is not protected. While children relate well to the childminder, the co-childminder and assistant, their emotional well-being is not always maintained. This is because the childminder has chosen to provide care for a large number of young children under five. She has not considered how to ensure any assistants who work with children are fully supervised when their suitability has not been checked. Little thought has been given to caring for so many children in the available space or ensuring there is enough equipment to meet their needs. This particularly relates to the youngest children. These children frequently wander aimlessly around, as the childminder and other adults working with them are too busy to play and interact with them.

Younger children do not receive sufficient support or attention. They have no specific key person to promote their emotional well-being and sense of security or to meet their care needs. There are too many young children to be sufficiently comforted, as and when needed. Older children are confident, independent, well behaved and happy. They are keen learners who are developing some relevant skills for school. However, children do not consistently benefit from purposeful learning experiences, which build on their prior knowledge and skills. Although children have fun when the childminder's assistant positively engages with them, he is unfamiliar with what they should be learning next.

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

- The childminder does not sufficiently identify and address weaknesses. This includes breaches in statutory requirements. It also includes a failure to address actions raised recently by Ofsted related to record-keeping and staff deployment. The childminder, her co-childminder and an assistant were caring for 17 children. This included one 11-month-old, four one-year-olds, five two-year-olds and seven three- and four-year-olds. The childminder has taken advantage of exceptions to ratios, including where this does not meet the criteria.
- The deployment of staff remains poor. At times, the assistant has only two toddlers in the lounge or is with a group of older children. This leaves other adults to manage the rest of the group. In addition, adults are not always present in the conservatory and fail to notice two-year-olds behaving unkindly to their younger peers.
- At least one adult is required to prepare meals, change nappies, toilet children and take children to and from school during the course of a day. This leaves the two remaining adults with the rest of the group. This includes sitting toddlers in high chairs for longer than is necessary. The lack of any key-person system has a further negative impact on the youngest children's individual needs being met.

- Although not present at inspection, the childminder's most recent assistants, not yet cleared as suitable, have started working. The childminder has insufficient arrangements for supervising such individuals to ensure children's safety is maintained.
- Children's physical well-being is not sufficiently promoted. Many of the youngest children have runny noses, which the inspector prompts adults to wipe. Older children are not always supervised closely enough to ensure they wash their hands thoroughly using soap after toileting. The childminder does not always encourage children to wash their hands after wiping their nose.
- Assistants do not have sufficient induction, training or mentoring to support them in their role. Although they enthusiastically engage children in activities, especially older children, they are unaware of what children should be learning.
- The childminder does not sufficiently organise or calculate space. Although the lounge is designated for children under two, access by older children is disruptive. Younger children can still crawl or toddle around all areas freely. However, they are then not sufficiently engaged, settled or accessing relevant play materials. When the lounge is closed off and prams are stored in play areas, this significantly reduces the play space available. During care routines, numerous children are in the conservatory, where there is not enough space.
- The childminder's qualification has a positive impact in some respects. For example, she undertakes regular and precise assessments of children's progress and provides some appropriate learning experiences for the oldest children. However, planning for the youngest children is not specific enough to their individual next steps in learning. Nor does it sufficiently focus on the key foundations for their future learning.
- Older children show great animation and friendships as they play in the exploratory kitchen with the childminder's assistant. They pretend that pebbles are potatoes and skilfully count these.
- Parents borrow resource packs to support their child's learning at home and they are kept regularly informed about their children's progress.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder has insufficient procedures for evacuating such a high number of children should there be a fire or other emergency. She continues to fail to keep accurate daily attendance records. She does not include children who are related or detail which adults are working each day. Adults are unable to adequately supervise the large number of children and keep them safe, including during care routines, which are often chaotic. Younger children are sometimes left unattended in high chairs while eating. There is not enough equipment to support effective and safe care routines. For example, because toddlers have to be swapped over in high chairs, some then wander around eating breadsticks. This poses a risk of choking. After prompting, the childminder sits them on the floor to eat, which does not promote good hygiene practice. The childminder and her assistant can identify indicators of abuse and they understand reporting procedures.

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
review the arrangements for using assistants whose suitability has not yet been checked by Ofsted, to ensure they are never left unsupervised	08/04/2020
ensure that there are appropriate emergency evacuation procedures in place to ensure the safety of children in the case of fire or any other emergency	08/04/2020
ensure that where exceptions are made to the usual ratios, these comply with the exceptions criteria, and are only made if the childminder can demonstrate that the individual needs of all children are being met	08/04/2020
ensure that staffing arrangements meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety and supervision at all times	08/04/2020
ensure that an accurate daily record is maintained of the names of all children being cared for on the premises, their hours of attendance and the name of each child's key person	08/04/2020
put in place an effective key-person system to ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs and emotional well-being	08/04/2020
ensure that the premises and equipment are suitably organised to meet indoor space requirements and children's individual needs	08/04/2020

take effective steps to prevent the spread of infection and promote children's good health	08/04/2020
ensure that assistants receive appropriate induction training to help them to understand their roles and responsibilities, and support them to undertake appropriate training and professional development to understand and deliver the learning and development requirements.	08/04/2020

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

	Due date
ensure that information from assessments is used to plan for the youngest children, taking full account of their individual needs, interests and stage of development and focusing on the three prime areas of learning.	08/04/2020

Setting details

Unique reference number	302799
Local authority	Barnsley
Inspection number	10117198
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	0 to 14
Total number of places	12
Number of children on roll	34
Date of previous inspection	22 October 2015

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 1992. She works with another childminder and a maximum of one of their five listed assistants, who work on different days and at different times. The childminder primarily works from her co-childminder's premises in the Wombwell area of Barnsley. However, she is also registered to childmind from her own home, also situated in Wombwell. The childminding provision is open Monday to Friday, from 7am to 5.45pm, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an appropriate qualification at level 5. She currently provides funded early education for three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Rachel Ayo

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed areas used for childcare purposes, activities indoors and outdoors and the interactions between the childminder, her assistant and children.
- The childminder and inspector carried out a joint evaluation of an activity.
- The inspector held a number of discussions with the childminder. She looked at relevant documents and evidence of the suitability of persons living or working in the household and sampled records of learning.
- The inspector spoke to children, the childminder's assistant and a parent during the inspection.
- The childminder shared written feedback from parents with the inspector.

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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