

Childminder report

Inspection date:

12 December 2022

Overall effectiveness

Inadequate

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

Children are not safe in this setting. The childminder has not considered potential fire hazards, putting children at risk of significant harm. During the inspection, the childminder was using a bottled-gas heater, surrounded by a fire guard. She put her coat at the side of the fire, with the sleeve hanging inches from it. Additional heating, directly where children play, is a significant burn risk to them. In addition, the environment is cluttered, exposing children to the risk of injury. Following the inspection, the provider's registration was suspended, as children may be at risk of harm should the provider have continued to operate.

The childminder cooks children's meals in the main house and serves these from the kitchenette in the outbuilding where children are cared for. However, the work surface in the kitchenette is cluttered and not suitable for serving meals. There is no running water in the building. Children wash their hands in a portable sink with cold water, which is stored in drink dispensers.

Despite these significant weaknesses, children have access to a varied range of toys. They readily choose what they want to play with. The childminder engages with the children and joins in their games. For example, when a child chooses to play with the dolls, the childminder extends the activity to introduce caring for babies.

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

- The childminder has not ensured that she is meeting fire regulations and does not risk assess the premises so that hazards are identified and reduced. As a result, the environment is not fit for purpose or safe for children to play. Despite the use of heaters, the temperature of the room is not warm enough for children to be comfortable. Children do not have space to move around and sometimes become frustrated, such as when there is no space to push a doll's buggy around.
- The childminder does not ensure that the learning environment is suitable. She stacks equipment and resources on top of each other, posing a risk of injury to children if these were to topple. The childminder does not show any ability to identify and manage risks. At this inspection, the childminder was using a plug-in, oil-filled radiator as additional heating. This was placed where children play and was very hot, putting children at risk of being burned. The childminder had not considered this as a hazard.
- The childminder does not ensure that she is meeting food hygiene regulations. Glue pots and other resources that have been used during the morning are pushed to one side on the work surface so that there is space to serve food. The childminder does not wipe this surface before putting food directly on it.

- Children do not have space to play comfortably. There is very little natural light, as the windows on one side of the room are very small and obscured by a metal grill. The blinds are drawn on the window above the sectioned-off 'toilet area'. At this inspection, the co-childminder said that this was to try and conserve heat.
- The childminder knows where children are in their learning and what she needs to do to support their continuing progress. She plans activities with her co-childminder to build on what children already know and can do. However, older children spend a lot of time playing alone, and the childminder does not ensure that activities offer them sufficient challenge. This does not help all children make the good progress that they are capable of.
- The childminder understands her role in preparing children for the next stage of their learning, such as moving on to school. She helps them understand what is expected of their behaviour, to consider the needs of others and play harmoniously together. The childminder builds close emotional bonds with the children. Younger children readily go to her for reassurance and to share their play.
- The childminder supports children's developing speech and language skills. She engages with children and provides a running commentary about what they are doing. She introduces new vocabulary. For example, when playing with dolls and role-play food with a younger child, the childminder introduces the names of food and crockery items.
- The childminder demonstrates secure partnerships with parents. She keeps parents informed about their children's day and learning. The childminder maintains mandatory training, such as paediatric first aid.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder does not have a good enough understanding of her responsibility to keep children in her care safe. Children are exposed to numerous hazards in the premises. Despite this, the childminder is aware of her duty in relation to child protection. She is aware of the indicators of abuse and knows how to report concerns. The childminder has completed child protection training to ensure that she is aware of local procedures for reporting and managing concerns.

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
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take any necessary steps to ensure that fire safety regulations are met	03/01/2023
organise the premises to meet the needs of the children and ensure that they are able to play safely, with regard to the risk of stacked resources toppling and general clutter	03/01/2023
ensure that children are not exposed to the risk of burns from unprotected heating sources	03/01/2023
carry out full risk assessments for the whole of the premises to identify potential hazards and the action taken to limit risks	03/01/2023
ensure that the premises is fit for purpose, with appropriate heating, natural daylight and space for children to move around freely.	03/01/2023

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

	Due date
improve teaching skills to ensure that all children are fully included and engaged	31/01/2023
ensure that all children receive consistently good-quality learning experiences that motivate them to play, listen and learn.	31/01/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY496573
Local authority	Suffolk
Inspection number	10266692
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 4
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	17
Date of previous inspection	14 February 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2015. She works with a co-childminder. The childminder operates all year round, from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday, except for bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder provides funded early education for two-, three- and four-year-old children.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Jacqui Mason

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 provider and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the provider.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of the risk assessment process, following information we received about this provider.
- The childminder talked to the inspector, to explain how the early years curriculum is organised.
- The inspector observed the quality of teaching during activities and assessed the impact this had on children's learning.
- The inspector spoke with the childminder at appropriate times throughout the inspection. She observed an activity and jointly evaluated this with the co-childminder.
- The inspector checked evidence of the suitability of all household members and qualifications of the childminder.

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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