

Childminder report

Inspection date: 8 March 2023

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	Inadequate
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What is it like to attend this early years setting?

The provision is inadequate

The childminder does not fully consider children's safety and welfare, which puts children at risk of harm. The childminder and her assistants do not ensure that children are supervised when they are eating. Children eat food that is dropped on the floor and share food with their peers without the childminder and her assistants noticing. This poses a choking risk to the young children.

The childminder does not understand how to carry out risk assessment and keep children safe from harm. For instance, she has not given enough consideration to the risk of her dog climbing on to children while they are sleeping. In addition, adults caring for the children are not sufficiently aware of what the dog is doing and do not notice when he climbs on sleeping children. The childminder also does not ensure that all of her assistants have the appropriate suitability checks in place before they are left unsupervised with children. Older children's reactions have a negative impact on younger children's engagement and focus. For example, they display challenging behaviour and adults do not respond appropriately; this is observed by the younger children. Despite this, children have secure relationships with the childminder and her assistants. Children arrive happy and separate from their parents confidently. However, children spend a lot of the day wandering around, as the curriculum provided does not offer children the appropriate challenge to engage them in learning. Children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are not given the appropriate support to help them learn well, and to be prepared for the next stage of their learning.

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

- Children are not sufficiently supervised to ensure that they are kept safe. The childminder and her assistants do not recognise the importance of supervising children when they are eating. Children wander around eating; they share food with their peers and this goes unnoticed by adults. The lack of supervision while children are eating means that the childminder and her assistants are not present to notice if a child was to choke and would not, therefore be able to administer emergency first aid in a timely manner.
- Risk assessments in relation to the care of pets are not robust enough. While the childminder has made suitable arrangements for a number of her dogs to be kept separate from the children, she continues to have a poor understanding of risk assessment. For instance, she knows that some children do not know how to manage their emotions around animals and often hit out at the dog, but she still leaves the room with the children and the dog unsupervised. This puts children at risk of harm.
- The childminder does not understand the importance of ensuring the suitability of all adults who work with children. Although she is aware that she must carry

out suitability checks, such as the Disclosure and Barring Service checks on her assistants, she does not ensure that the checks are complete before she allows them to be left unsupervised with children. This puts children's safety at risk.

- Children do not receive consistent messages about boundaries and expectations. This is because they observe older children with SEND behaving in a way that is inappropriate and unsafe and this goes unchecked by adults. For example, an older child was observed to climb all over the assistants and sitting on their shoulders, while the assistants were supporting the younger children. They then helped themselves to snacks whenever they wished and walked around eating them. The lack of adult intervention to address these behaviours results in the younger children receiving mixed messages about what is expected of them.
- The childminder does not consider the individual needs, interests and development of each child. She does not provide a curriculum that takes account of what children can do, and what they need to learn next. Older children wander around with little to do and younger children are left with dummies in their mouths preventing them from developing their language skills. This means that children do not make the progress of which they are capable.
- Children with SEND are not given the help they need. While the childminder is aware of the children's needs and is able to identify when they are struggling to manage their emotions, she does not ensure effective strategies are implemented to support them. She does not manage children's behaviour effectively and relies heavily on food and the television to keep the children occupied, rather than ensuring that teaching and the curriculum is targeted to meet the children's needs.
- The childminder and her assistants are kind and caring towards children.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder does not ensure that she carries out adequate risk assessments to keep children in her care safe. She fails to assess the risk posed by her dog, the children's needs and the children's safety when they are eating. In addition to this, she allows adults who have not had appropriate suitability checks to care for children unsupervised. The childminder ensures that she and her assistants keep their child protection training up to date and relevant. They suitably understand the procedures in place to report any safeguarding 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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ensure that children are adequately supervised while they are eating	13/03/2023
ensure risks are identified and removed, including those posed by children's access to pets	13/03/2023
ensure that adults do not have unsupervised access to children until the appropriate suitability checks have been obtained	13/03/2023
ensure that the care and learning for the younger children is not impacted negatively by older children	13/03/2023
ensure that children with SEND receive appropriate support to meet their needs	27/03/2023

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

	Due date
ensure that the curriculum provides children with appropriate challenge to help them to make progress in their learning.	27/03/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY321415
Local authority	North Somerset
Inspection number	10281884
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 4
Total number of places	10
Number of children on roll	23
Date of previous inspection	4 January 2023

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2006. She lives in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. The childminder employs three assistants. She offers care for children each weekday from 6.45am until 6.30pm, all year round. The childminder holds a childcare qualification at level 4 and one of her assistants holds a qualification at level 3. The childminder receives funding to provide free early education to children aged two, three and four years.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Victoria Nicolson

Inspection activities

- The inspector discussed any continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the childminder and has taken that into account in their evaluation of the setting.
- We carried out this inspection as a result of a risk assessment, following information we received about the provider.
- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The childminder and the inspector discussed how the early years provision is organised, including the aims and rationale for their curriculum.
- The inspector talked to the childminder, her assistants and children at appropriate times during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The inspector spoke to several parents during the inspection and took account of their views.
- The childminder provided the inspector with a sample of key documentation on request.

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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