

Childminder report

Inspection date: 31 March 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
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's good health is compromised because they are exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke in the childcare environment. Additionally, children's safety is not assured because the childminder has not notified Ofsted about a visitor who stays at her home regularly. This means Ofsted has not been able to verify the suitability of this individual.

Despite weaknesses, children are happy to attend the childminder's welcoming home. All children, including those who are new to the setting, have formed secure attachments with the childminder. They enjoy cuddles throughout the day and seek reassurance from the childminder when visitors are present. Children are supported to understand expected behaviours, such as sharing and being kind to each other. They understand the need to tidy the toys away when asked to do so by the childminder.

Children access lots of activities, both indoors and outdoors. They are confident and enjoy exploring the wide range of toys and equipment. Children demonstrate good levels of interest and engagement, especially when completing craft activities. The childminder has a good insight into what children know and can do. Despite the weaknesses in the safe management of her provision, she provides a good quality of education. All children are making good progress with their development.

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

- The childminder does not recognise the potential risks of children being exposed to second-hand smoke. Although she does not smoke when children are present, she chooses to smoke by her back door. This results in a strong smell of cigarettes throughout the premises.
- The childminder has not informed Ofsted that a household member is now working as an assistant. The assistant is also included in the ratios. Ofsted has not been able to verify this person is suitable to work with children. Furthermore, the childminder has not notified Ofsted about a regular visitor who frequently stays overnight. As a result, Ofsted has not been able to complete the required suitability checks, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks. This places children at risk.
- The childminder accurately assesses what children can do. She provides opportunities for them to learn through play. The childminder is skilled in recognising children's individual interests, such as building a tower with bricks. She introduces mathematics by counting the bricks with them. The childminder also helps children to succeed by offering lots of praise and encouragement. Children giggle as they proudly declare, 'I did it'. All children demonstrate a positive attitude to learning.

- The childminder implements her learning intentions well. She helps children to build concentration skills. For example, children focus for a long period as they decorate a chick with coloured feathers to make an Easter card. Through these activities, the childminder helps children to recognise colours and to develop their hand-to-eye coordination. Children gain a love of art and creativity.
- Parents value the support the childminder gives their children. They comment that their children 'run in excited', and they know their children will have 'the best time'. The childminder also values parents' input and recognises the benefits of working together. For example, she has worked with parents to reinforce children's healthy eating and oral hygiene.
- The childminder gains information from parents to establish what children have already learned. She uses this information to plan their future education. The childminder provides home-learning bags, which contain activities so children can continue to learn at home. This partnership working is having a positive impact on children's learning and progress.
- The childminder implements a range of activities that help children develop an understanding of the world. She celebrates festivals around different cultures and beliefs. The childminder also helps children to understand similarities and differences between themselves and others.
- Children benefit from lots of opportunities to learn how to care for nature and animals. For example, they gain an understanding of how to keep the pets healthy. They especially enjoy feeding leafy greens to the childminder's pet guinea pigs.
- The childminder evaluates her practice regularly and considers how she can make improvements to her setting. For example, she has accessed an abundance of training to ensure that she keeps her knowledge and skills up to date. She implements her training well to enhance her provision. However, she does not fully understand the requirements. This has led to breaches that compromise the overall effectiveness of her setting.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder has failed to meet some of the legal requirements, which affects her safeguarding arrangements. Consequently, children's well-being and safety are not assured. That said, the childminder keeps other aspects of her safeguarding knowledge and understanding up to date. She is aware of the procedures to implement should she have a child protection concern about a child. The childminder is also aware of the procedures to follow in the event of an allegation being made against her or a household member. Despite weaknesses that compromise children's health and safety, the childminder helps children to understand some aspects about keeping safe. For example, when on outings, the childminder helps children to learn about 'stranger danger' and how to cross the road safely.

What does the setting need to do to improve?

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

	Due date
ensure that nobody smokes on the premises when children are or will soon be in attendance	27/04/2023
provide information to Ofsted about any assistants, including persons who are regular visitors or living on the premises, to enable Ofsted to carry out the appropriate suitability checks	27/04/2023
increase knowledge and understanding of the dangers to children of second-hand smoke and take steps to minimise this.	27/04/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY339637
Local authority	Wigan
Inspection number	10284214
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 2
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	5
Date of previous inspection	4 December 2018

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives in Wigan, Lancashire. She operates all year round from 7.30am until 7pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays and family holidays. The childminder holds an early years qualification at level 5.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Alison Tranby

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.
- This inspection was carried out as a result of a risk assessment, following a concern received by Ofsted.
- The childminder showed the inspector the premises and discussed the childminder's intentions for children's learning.
- Discussions were held at convenient times with the children and the childminder. Consideration was given to parents' written and verbal comments.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder to assess her knowledge of safeguarding and welfare requirements of the early years foundation stage and how the childminder evaluates her practice.
- The childminder and the inspector evaluated an activity and discussed the impact on children's learning.
- Relevant documents were reviewed by the inspector including qualifications and children's records.

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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