

Childminder report

Inspection date: 9 May 2023

Overall effectiveness	Inadequate
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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's safety and good health are not fully assured. Children are not adequately supervised. Furthermore, their good health is not promoted, due to poor hygiene practices. The childminder does not meet the individual needs of children. For example, she fails to recognise when younger children are bored or tired. The childminder does not set out clear boundaries or expectations. Consequently, children do not know what is expected of them and do not behave appropriately. They struggle to take turns and become easily frustrated. Children are not encouraged to reflect on their actions or learn how to resolve problems for themselves.

The childminder does not plan an effective curriculum or learning environment to support children's learning. As a result, children's play is repetitive and lacks purpose. Children quickly lose focus in what they are doing and become bored. The childminder demonstrates a weak understanding of her role in teaching. She allows children to initiate their own play and does not provide them with sufficient challenge to extend their development.

Despite the weaknesses, children are mostly happy and settled with the childminder. Older children are confident to ask her for help when needed, for example when they cannot turn the key in a lock of a toy. Children do make some progress from their starting points on entry. For example, older children speak confidently and use basic counting skills to count cars as they play. However, children's learning is often incidental because of the childminder's insufficient observation, assessment and planning arrangements.

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

- The childminder fails to ensure children's safety. For example, she leaves some children unattended in the house while she takes other children in the car in preparation for the school run.
- The childminder fails to supervise children effectively at all times, especially when they are eating. Children are offered a range of snacks. However, the childminder does not encourage children to sit down while eating and often leaves the room during mealtimes. This exposes children to the risk of choking.
- The childminder does not implement good hygiene routines. For example, she wipes children's hands before eating but allows them to play again before touching the food. Furthermore, after wiping children's noses, the childminder does not put the tissue in the bin or wash her hands. This increases the risk of cross-infection and does not promote children's good health.
- The childminder does not undertake effective assessments of children's learning. Consequently, she does not accurately identify and plan for children's next steps

in learning. Furthermore, the childminder is unable to identify any gaps in children's learning, to help them to make the progress that they are capable of. That said, she does complete the statutory two-year-old progress check for all children aged between two and three years.

- The childminder organises resources and the play space poorly. The environment is not orderly, especially when toys are scattered on the floor. This affects the space available to younger children. They struggle to move around safely. For example, when children are learning to stand independently, they sometimes stand on a toy, which causes them to become unsteady.
- The childminder understands the importance of promoting children's physical development. She encourages children to be physically active. For example, they have access to resources that promote large-muscle development in the childminder's garden. Children say that they enjoy going on outings to soft-play areas, playgroups and the local park.
- The childminder collects some information about children's likes and dislikes when they start. She also provides flexible settling-in sessions. This helps to build positive relationships with parents and children from the onset. Parents value daily discussions about their child's day. They also comment on how grateful they are for the childminder's flexibility.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.

The childminder has a poor understanding of her duties under the safeguarding and welfare requirements. She leaves children unattended and does not take steps to remove or minimise risks to ensure children's safety. This means children may be at risk of harm in the childminder's home. However, the childminder has suitable safeguarding knowledge, to ensure that she is able to identify possible signs and symptoms of abuse. She understands the local safeguarding procedures to make referrals if she has concerns about a child. The childminder knows how to report allegations about herself or household members to the designated officer at the local authority. She attends mandatory training. These measures help to protect children's welfare.

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
ensure that children are within sight or hearing at all times to ensure their safety	12/06/2023

help children to understand acceptable behaviour and how to resolve conflicts independently	12/06/2023
improve understanding of child development so that accurate assessments can be undertaken	12/06/2023
ensure that the learning environment supports the curriculum delivery	12/06/2023
implement hygiene procedures to promote children's good health	12/06/2023
plan and deliver an effective curriculum that meets children's individual learning and development needs	12/06/2023
ensure that children are adequately supervised when eating.	12/06/2023

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY252984
Local authority	Wirral
Inspection number	10280004
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 8
Total number of places	6
Number of children on roll	6
Date of previous inspection	21 September 2017

Information about this early years setting

The childminder registered in 2003 and lives in Bebington, Wirral. She holds an appropriate qualification at level 3. The childminder operates from 7.30am until 6.30pm on Monday to Friday, all year round, except for bank holidays and family holidays.

Information about this inspection

Inspector

Kerry Maddock

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 setting.
- The inspector observed areas used for childcare purposes, care routines and the activities taking place indoors.
- The inspector held discussions with the childminder to understand how she organises the early years provision and implements the curriculum. She observed the quality of education during activities and assessed the impact this has on children's learning.
- The childminder and the inspector carried out a joint evaluation of a spontaneous activity taking place.
- The childminder shared documents, including children's records and evidence of mandatory training, such as a current paediatric first-aid certificate.
- The inspector viewed written documents provided by parents and took their views 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.

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