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Our Reference EY389331

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Kelly Eyre, monitored your provision on 09/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 10/12/2013, we sent you a notice to improve. The actions you were set are included at the end of this letter.

During the monitoring visit the inspector talked with you about the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed activities and the interactions of you and your assistant with the children present. She looked at risk assessments and what has been done to reduce or remove any hazards. The inspector also looked at your written policies and procedures, children's assessment records, activity planning and the induction procedure for assistants.

The inspector found that you have welcomed the support offered by your local authority Childminder Support and Development Officers in order to develop a practical action plan to aid you in addressing the issues raised at your last inspection. You have an appropriate process in place to evaluate your daily practice and the impact this has on the provision for children. This has also supported you in addressing the areas for improvement identified at your last inspection and in helping to ensure that any improvements are sustainable.

Your review of the activity planning procedures has meant that you now collate each day's planning, clearly displaying this and discussing it with your assistants. You have ensured that observations and assessments of children are used to inform the development of their next steps and have included these in the daily planning. You also continue to ensure that toys and resources are accessible so that children can make independent choices. This means that children are offered appropriate opportunities to choose their own resources and determine their play and can also participate in structured activities. These all help to ensure that children's progress is sufficiently supported.

The improvements in the planning have been extended to include a weekly review of all activities and play opportunities. You use this review to look at activities that can

be extended and to note children's current interests. This information is then fed into the ongoing planning. In this way, planning is more accurately informed and means that children are interested in the activities and are appropriately challenged, thus promoting their learning and development. Outdoor activities are now included in the daily planning and form a regular part of the daily routine. As a result, children are offered appropriate outdoor activities and play experiences that help promote their learning.

With regard to your childminding assistants, you have employed two new assistants and have actively used the support and guidance provided by your local authority Childminder Support and Development Officer. You have introduced a clear induction procedure so that the assistants are aware of your policies and procedures and of their roles and responsibilities. You have also formalised the support you offer to the assistants and have booked a series of training sessions for them, some of which they have already attended. This will enable them to develop their professional practice. These changes mean that assistants now have an increased understanding of their role and are better able to support children and promote their welfare, safety and development.

Improvements to daily procedures, and the introduction of specific activities, mean that children's health is now better promoted. Children wash their hands before eating, following the recently reviewed picture prompts displayed in the cloakroom. You have also drawn children's attention to the stickers on the pet cages that remind children to wash their hands after handling the pets. You have introduced activities, such as making soap, that offer opportunities to talk with children about the relevance of hygiene procedures. You have reviewed the risk assessments so that any hazards are removed or minimised. Daily safety checks now ensure that all areas are checked before children arrive. This means that children play in a safe, secure environment.

Children's behaviour is managed consistently and they are now offered improved opportunities to learn about managing this themselves. The introduction of a 'kind hands' display means that children are aware of the expectations and boundaries. Activities and discussions relating to feelings help children understand their own feelings and the impact their behaviour has on others. By including behaviour management in the assistants' induction procedure, you are also able to make sure that assistants understand the methods used and children's behaviour is therefore handled consistently.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the childminder has taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

The next step will be a full inspection.

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I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your childminding service. If you have any further queries please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Fitzjohn
National Director, Childminding

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
implement each of the seven areas of learning through planned, purposeful play and a combination of adult-led and child-initiated learning activities that are based on what each child needs to learn next	21/01/2014	09/04/2014
encourage children's learning and development by promoting opportunities for them to be effectively challenged, and fully engaged, in a wide range of experiences	21/01/2014	09/04/2014
ensure that all assistants have the necessary skills and experience to be competent in supporting children's learning and development and they are able to promote their safety and well-being	21/01/2014	09/04/2014
promote children's good health through effective hand washing procedures and meal time routines. Prevent the spread of infection by, for example, encouraging children to cover their mouths when sneezing and coughing	31/12/2013	09/04/2014
ensure that children learn about acceptable ways in which to behave by providing a consistent approach to managing inappropriate behaviour	31/12/2013	09/04/2014
ensure that hazards to children are minimised, with particular reference to removing dangerous substances and highly stacked equipment	31/12/2013	09/04/2014
promote opportunities for all children to access outdoor activities on a daily basis.	31/12/2013	09/04/2014
ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	31/12/2013	09/04/2014
ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner. (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	31/12/2013	09/04/2014