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Our Reference EY461426

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Melanie Arnold, monitored your provision on 29/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 06/02/2014, 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 discussed with you the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She looked around your home at the areas used for childminding, specifically noting the safety and suitability of these areas and the furniture used. The inspector also looked at relevant records and documents including risk assessments and medication and existing injury records.

The inspector found that you have worked on the actions and recommendations raised at the last inspection, making improvements in most areas. You confirm that you are committed to making and sustaining improvements to children's care, learning and development. You describe how you are in the process of developing a process of self-evaluation to enable you to monitor and evaluate the service you provide so that continuous improvements are made in all areas. You have been unable to access support from the local authority.

The inspector found that children's well-being is protected as you now record relevant information each and every time you administer medication. You also now maintain a record of existing injuries which occur to children when they are away from your provision. You understand the importance of doing this, to fully ensure children are safeguarded. You confirm that you have updated your safeguarding children policy to include the use of mobile phones and cameras. You are now implementing this policy to ensure any visitors to the home do not use their mobile phones while you are childminding. This helps to protect children from potential harm.

You confirm that when providing overnight care, you will only do this for one family at a time to ensure children's safety, dignity and individual needs are met. You

explained how you now assess the individual ages and abilities of children when being asked to provide overnight care, to ensure that you can meet each child's needs. You also demonstrated a clear awareness of why it is important to consider this information, to ensure that you can safely evacuate the home in the event of a fire or another emergency situation. The inspector found that you have smoke detectors on both floors of the home and you have downloaded information leaflets on fire safety to improve your knowledge in this area. You conduct overnight care risk assessments and ensure the home is kept secure overnight to ensure children remain safe. You explain how you are still trying to confirm that the homemade cot bunk bed is fully safe and suitable for use. As you are not currently caring for children overnight, this does not pose a risk to children's safety. You explain that you will either get an assessment completed on this cot bunk bed, confirming that it is safe for use and if this is not possible, you will consider removing it from use altogether to fully ensure children's well-being is protected.

Risk assessment checks are in place and used appropriately to ensure potential hazards are identified and minimised in all areas. The inspector found that you are aware of the potential hazards posed to children accessing the rear garden and this is the reason for you not allowing children to use this area. Children are provided with outdoor play opportunities in the front garden, which is more suitable for use. You detail how children are fully supervised and how you secure the gates when children play in the front garden, to ensure that they remain safe. During a tour of your home, the inspector found that all areas used by children were safe, suitable and free from harm. You explain how you keep your premises secure by ensuring that the door to her home is mainly kept locked. A gate from the lounge/dining room where children play, prevents children from accessing this door and a door alarm system alerts you to anyone entering or leaving the premises. You confirm that children are always supervised when they are in your care to ensure they remain safe from harm.

You confirm that you spend an equal amount of time with each child to ensure their needs are met. You confirm that you observe and assess children to monitor their progress and then use this information to identify and plan appropriate next steps to aid children's ongoing development. This ensures that each child is adequately supported and challenged in line with their individual needs and abilities. You also explain how you have increased the range of tactile and natural resources younger children, including babies, have access to. This provides them with further opportunities to explore and investigate using their senses.

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
keep a record of any medicine administered to any child who is cared for on the premises, including the date and circumstances and who administered it, including medicine which the child is permitted to self-administer, together with a record of a parent/guardian/carers' consent (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	06/02/2014	29/04/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	27/02/2014	29/04/2014
keep a record of any medicine administered to any child who is cared for on the premises, including the date and circumstances and who administered it, including medicine which the child is permitted to self-administer, together with a record of a parent/guardian/carers' consent (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	06/02/2014	29/04/2014
ensure children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	06/02/2014	29/04/2014
keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	27/02/2014	29/04/2014
ensure the premises and equipment used or the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	06/02/2014	29/04/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	27/02/2014	29/04/2014
improve the recording of medicines administered to children to include information about any previous doses given and what the medicine is for and	20/02/2014	29/04/2014

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ensure parents give written permission each time medicine is to be administered to protect children's health

ensure the premises are secure and outdoor spaces and furniture used for sleeping children are safe and fit for purpose 20/02/2014 29/04/2014

take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children in the case of fire or any other emergency, particularly when providing overnight care 27/02/2014 29/04/2014

ensure the needs of all children are met and ensure their safety, particularly when providing overnight care 27/02/2014 29/04/2014

implement a safeguarding policy and procedure which covers the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting and ensure visitors comply with this policy and procedure to safeguard children 27/02/2014 29/04/2014

improve safeguarding procedures by keeping records of any existing injuries children may have 27/02/2014 29/04/2014

ensure risk assessments are effective in identifying all hazards and demonstrate how these hazards are removed or minimised, including an assessment of overnight care and the number and ages of children cared for 27/02/2014 29/04/2014

improve the organisation of time, activities and resources so that all children are equally and consistently supported and challenged. Shape learning experiences for each child to help them make the best possible progress in their learning and development. 06/04/2014 29/04/2014

ensure children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 06/02/2014 29/04/2014

keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 27/02/2014 29/04/2014

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ensure the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 06/02/2014 29/04/2014