

Compliance action taken for childcare provision

EY371195/C293915

Date: 12/10/2016

Summary of outcome

On 2 September 2016, the provider notified us that a child had gone missing from the setting for a short period of time. The notification means that the provider met their legal responsibility as set out in the early years foundation stage welfare requirements to notify Ofsted of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the early years provider or any person who cares for, or is in regular contact with, children on the premises to look after children.

We looked into these concerns to see whether the provider was meeting the early years foundation stage requirements relating to Child protection, Staff: child ratios, Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment, Risk assessment, Information for parents and carers, and Information about the provider. These include requirements that state that: 'Staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. Providers must ensure that children are adequately supervised and decide how to deploy staff to ensure children's needs are met. Children must usually be within sight and hearing of staff and always within sight or hearing' and 'Providers must make the following information available to parents and/or carers: details of the provider's policies and procedures, including the procedure to be followed in the event of a child going missing at, or away from, the setting'

We carried out a visit to the premises and found that, following an incident where a child left the premises unsupervised, the provider had promptly reviewed the security of the premises and made relevant changes to make them more secure. This included replacing an existing gate for the outdoor play area with a more robust gate with a dead lock fitted, which can only be opened by staff. A nearby main entrance gate had been replaced by fixed fencing, leaving just one main entrance to the side of the premises. The remaining side entrance has two in-line fitted gates to provide further

security. Both gates have the draw-bolts fitted to their outside face, so that they are not visible or accessible to children. Additionally, children should only access this area when being taken to or from the setting by parents or staff. The provider confirmed that she plans to add additional security devices to the external doors of the premises. However, we found that risk assessment had not been updated in respect of the recent missing child incident and did not include the changes already made and those which are planned. The provider had reviewed staff deployment and the supervision of children for routine times of the day, such as preparing for lunch time. Each day, the manager and staff discuss and agree the staff deployment arrangements so that they are clear about their responsibilities. There is a written procedure to provide guidance of what to do if a child goes missing. However, the procedure did not ensure that the police are prioritised for contact at an early stage of the process and did not include checking that the remaining number of children concurs with the attendance records. Although not part of the original concerns raised, it was noted that the lead practitioner for safeguarding children had not updated their child protection training. The provider confirmed that arrangements have been made for the completion of a relevant child protection course.

Following our visit, we served a welfare requirements notice on the provider that required them to:

ensure that risk assessment is updated in relation to the security of the premises, to identify how the risks will be removed or minimised, and to inform staff practice (Risk assessment)

ensure that the procedure to be followed in the event of a child going missing from the premises or during outings, includes checking that the remaining number of children present concurs with attendance records and that the police are contacted promptly (Information for parents and carers)

It is an offence for a person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a welfare requirements notice. Failure to comply may result in a prosecution.

We also issued a notice to improve that asked the provider to:

ensure that the lead practitioner for safeguarding children attends a child protection training course so that they have an up-to-date training certificate (Child protection)

We made a further visit to the premises to monitor compliance with the

welfare requirements notice. We found that the actions were met. Written risk assessments had been updated to include the security of the premises and measures to reduce of the risk of a child leaving the premises unsupervised. Additionally, the missing child policy had been updated to include effective procedures to be followed in the event of a child going missing.

The provider confirmed that the action issued in the notice to improve is met. The provider remains registered with Ofsted.

Publication of compliance action

We aim to ensure that the welfare of children and young people is protected in the services we regulate. The Childcare Act 2006 and accompanying regulations set out our responsibilities to regulate childminders and childcare providers. This includes the enforcement powers we have in relation to those registered providers who do not comply with the requirements for registration.

We publish details of any actions we take, or the childminder or childcare provider takes to bring about compliance with requirements on our website for a period of five years commencing on the date we complete our investigation.

For further information please read the *Early years compliance handbook* which can be found here at www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-provider-non-compliance-action-by-ofsted .