

13/10/2009

Our Reference 260767

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Denise May Smith, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 18/09/2009. This visit follows on from your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of the visit

As a result of our inspection on 26/03/2009, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

This notice required you to: ensure that Ofsted is notified of any change of person aged 16 or over living or working on the premises and to ensure that children do not leave the premises unsupervised and take steps to prevent intruders entering the premises. This referred to the unsecured front door.

As a result of this inspection you were also sent a notice to improve which required you to: implement an effective policy on administering medication; ensure that records are kept of all accidents and first aid treatment; implement a procedure to be followed for the protection of children in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and procedures; ensure the procedure for children who are ill or infectious covers arrangements for exclusion and is discussed with parents and to conduct a risk assessment that identifies aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis and maintain a record of this. This notice also required you to provide the following information for parents: the type of activities provided for the children; the procedure to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child at the appointed time and the procedure to be followed in the event of a child going missing;

This notice further required you to: gain knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) learning and development requirements so that children are provided with an educational programme that will enable them to make progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning; undertake sensitive observational assessment in order to plan to meet young children's individual needs as they progress towards the early learning goals and to plan and

provide experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that at this time you are making satisfactory improvement overall.

Overall effectiveness of the improvement and outcomes for children

An inspector conducted a monitoring visit on the 07 May 2009. From evidence provided during this visit the inspector was satisfied that all of the issues raised in this welfare requirement notice and notice to improve have either been met or were being addressed.

The childminder ensures that children do not leave the premises unsupervised. The front door is now locked, and the keys stored in an accessible place in case of an emergency. Older children have to ask to go out and the door is locked behind them. No entry can be gained from the outside without knocking on the door to be let in. The childminder has written a policy which includes this new process. A written risk assessment has been implemented for all areas of the house which children have access to and any action taken to minimise identified risks to children. The framework she now has in place will enable her to extend the areas to be risk assessed. For example, the children's use of toys, the age appropriateness of toys provided and activities such as risks at meal times.

An effective policy on administering medication is also now in place; it has been shared with parents and is followed as the need arises. Any medication administered is recorded in an appropriate way. The childminder is aware that she must ensure that records are kept of all accidents and first aid treatment administered. There have not been any accidents to record since the last inspection; however, the childminder has recorded the minor injuries the children have sustained outside of her care. She has now introduced a written procedure for children who are ill or infectious which covers arrangements for exclusion; this has been shared with the parents of the children in her care. The childminder confirms that she would not care for a child who was ill or infectious.

An inspector conducted a further visit on the 02 July 2009 to monitor the progress the childminder had made towards addressing the remaining actions which had been set at the inspection on the 26 March 2009.

The childminder has now fully updated the two written policies relating to the procedure to be followed in the event of a parent failing to collect a child and the procedure to be followed in the event of a child going missing. The childminder understands the procedures to follow and the written policies ensure they can effectively support the childminder should these events occur and keep parents informed of the procedures to be followed. A written procedure, together with appropriate guidance documents, are now in place outlining what action to take if the childminder had a concern relating to the children in her care. The childminder

was able to explain and discuss the process she would follow and is booked onto a safeguarding training course to further develop her knowledge. The new written policies have all been shared with parents, who have also been provided with information relating to the types of activities provided for the children and their daily routines. Each parent has a daily diary containing such information.

The childminder is making progress in addressing the issues highlighted which are related to the learning and development requirements. She has obtained a copy of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) and the associated guidance and is using these to gain a knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements so that children are provided with an educational programme that will enable them to make progress towards the early learning goals in all areas of learning. The childminder has now secured a place on a related training course to consolidate her understanding of these issues.

Individual folders have been set up for each child on the early years register. The folders contain all of the required permissions and contact details, plus sheets for observations under each of the six areas of learning. Additionally, forms are included to plan and record main activities which are provided for the children, with space to record the identified next steps of learning. The childminder has begun to make observations of children as they achieve, which are linked to these areas. The childminder is now more confident in making these observations and they are helping her to identify the children's next steps in learning and help her plan for the children. However, these are not yet sufficiently developed to effectively support the childminder in meeting young children's individual needs as they progress towards the early learning goals. Parents have been provided with information relating to the types of activities provided for the children and their daily routines in the form of a daily diary.

The childminder provides experiences which are appropriate to each child's stage of development. She uses the EYFS practice guidance document to check children's development stages and ensure the activities are appropriate and that children are making suitable progress. They have increasing opportunities to initiate their own play as they access the available toys and are encouraged to join in with planned activities. The childminder continues to plan a range of both adult and child-led activities, both inside and out of doors to ensure that there is a balance of opportunities. For example, the children enjoyed making and decorating musical shakers from a range of materials and they grew stick beans, measuring them weekly as they grew. The childminder continues to ensure the children have lots of opportunities to visit the local community and have the time to socialise with other children at the local toddler support groups. It was agreed that a further visit will be undertaken to monitor the affect these improvements the childminder has made to the assessment and planning systems are having on the children.

An inspector conducted a further visit on the 18 September 2009. The childminder continues to provide the children with a range of opportunities and activities which support their leaning through play. There continues to be a balance of child-initiated play as the children build with waffle boards, deciding to make houses which they

describe as 'their house' and 'the childminders house'. The children enjoy standing their tall structures up to see which one is the tallest. The childminder ensures that the children continue to have many opportunities to play in the local parks where they develop their ball skills and their hand-eye coordination as they use tennis rackets.

The childminder continues to maintain the written daily diaries which are shared with the parents and contain information about what the children have been doing and information relating to the individual care which has been provided. However, many of the observations which have been made of the children's achievements and the photographs which have been taken of the children undertaking activities have not been printed out and so not entered into the children progression folders. As a result they are not helpful in supporting the childminder identify the children's next steps of learning or to monitor the children's progress towards the early learning goals. The childminder has stopped recording her planning for the children which was helping her to ensure she provided broad and balanced activities for the children. From discussion with the childminder it appears that she is providing a balance of activities and that children are making progress, but as the planning and assessment records have not been kept up-to-date it is difficult to assess the impact that these written records may have. It was agreed with the childminder that she would ensure these systems are maintained and reintroduced in the case of planning and that a further monitoring visit would be made in three months where this learning and development would be further assessed.

Next steps

Having considered all the evidence the inspector is of the opinion that at this time:

- The childminder has made satisfactory progress in addressing the points for improvement. The next visit will be a further monitoring visit.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Brown".

Sheila Brown HMI
National Director, Inspection Delivery