

Our Reference 123895

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Cheryl Langley, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 05/11/2013. 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 11/07/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

This Welfare Requirement Notice, which was to be met by 8 August 2013 required you to: devise a policy and procedure to safeguard children in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board. Ensure this includes what action would be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of the household, and the use of mobile phones and cameras (Early Years Foundation Stage Welfare Requirement, Child protection 3.4 – 3.8); devise a procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and/or carers if they believe the provider is not meeting the Early Year's Foundation Stage requirements, (Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, Complaints 3.73) and make sure risk assessments are reviewed regularly, that they identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis and how the risk will be removed or minimised. Ensure these are implemented effectively in practice, (Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement, Risk Assessment 3.63).

You were also issued with a Notice to Improve, which is to be met by 1 November 2013. This asked you to: improve the daily experience of children in the early years setting by updating training, skills and knowledge of Early Years Foundation stage (Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, Staff qualifications 3.18); promote the good health of children by ensuring children adopt and learn about good hygiene practices to ensure the risk of cross-infection is reduced (Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, Health 3.42); use observation and assessment of children in order to effectively plan and shape learning experiences, and to ensure that children are provided with

sufficient accessible resources to promote future learning and development (Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, Learning and Development 2) and enable a regular two-way flow of information with parents and/or carers and between providers if a child is attending more than one setting (Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements, Information and Records 3.67).

At the monitoring visit on 21 August 2013 it was found that action had been taken to meet the Welfare Requirement Notice. A clear comprehensive safeguarding policy is in place which includes what steps to follow if an allegation is made against you the childminder, or a member of the household, in order to safeguard the welfare of children. It also includes the suitable use of cameras and mobile phones to record children's progress and share information with parents without compromising children's safety. There is a clear complaints procedure which sets out how you will respond to any concerns raised and the records kept to share with parents when they request information about the childminding practice.

A risk assessment had been completed and action taken to make the home, equipment and resources safe for minded children: safety gates have been fitted to enable supervision of children in different areas of the house; stairs and trailing wires have been made inaccessible, a folded buggy is stored so that children cannot trap their fingers in it, a stone is placed in part of the water feature in the garden area so that there is no shallow water left in the container which could be a hazard to young children and an external gate has been made safe so that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

To prevent cross infection children use paper towels to dry their hands. There is some exchange of information to support children's care and learning between you and other providers. Plans were in place to develop this and make sure it is focussed sufficiently for each individual child to promote the next step in their development.

During the visit a range of enjoyable and challenging activities were provided. All areas of learning were covered while children enjoyed baking cakes, catching and blowing bubbles and using their imaginations in a variety of role play. Children were supported when required and their care needs met. You were able to demonstrate through discussion that you have reviewed your practice to address the balance between adult-led and child-initiated play, ensuring children are able to be independent active learners.

Knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements had been updated and policies and procedures revised to reflect this. You had a positive attitude to improving your practice. A further

monitoring visit was arranged to check the actions to be met by 1 November 2013 and that improvement was being maintained.

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

At the monitoring visit on 5 November 2013 you were able to demonstrate how you have met the actions that were to be completed by 1 November 2013. This is because you have formed a strong partnership with parents and schools to plan for children's next steps in learning. You are responding to children's interests to provide activities which are challenging and stimulating. Children are developing their mark making and literary skills. They are beginning to link sounds to letters and form recognisable marks to represent their own name or other words. Children enjoy books and are aware that writing has different purposes. A variety of activities, such as cooking and imaginary and creative play, encourages development across the prime and specific areas of learning.

A journal to show the observations you have made of each child's achievements and how you are planning for their next steps is in place for each child that you care for. You have organised equipment and resources to encourage choice and independence. Training in Safeguarding has been updated and you continue to maintain effective practice to keep your home safe.

Next steps

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

- The childminder has made satisfactory improvement. The next visit will be a full inspection.

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

Susan Gregory HMI
National Director, Inspection Delivery