

Our Reference 141697

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Linda Cass, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 13/01/2014. 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 11/09/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

The welfare requirement notice required you to address the following:

keep a daily record of the names of children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance; ensure risk assessments identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis and take action to remove any hazards found; ensure that the premises, including outdoor spaces are fit for the purpose and that all spaces, furniture, equipment and toys, are clean and safe for children to use.

A notice to improve was also issued which required you to address the following:

develop appropriate skills and knowledge, with particular regard to the learning and development requirements of the Statutory Framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage; assess any risks to children's safety, and review risk assessments regularly. Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis; implement a system to evaluate practice and drive continuous improvement across all areas, taking into account the views of parents and children to develop secure action plans; improve the learning environment so that it is inviting and challenging for children by giving children more free choice and variety in the equipment and resources they use to promote independent learning; shape educational programmes to cover the seven areas of learning. Make sure activities interest and challenge children by identifying next steps and working towards these identified goals; work in partnership with parents, to consider the individual needs, interest and stage of development of each child. Share information to establish

children's starting points and support learning experiences at home;
keep records of the following, a daily record of the names of the children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (Voluntary and compulsory part of the childcare register); inform Ofsted of changes of circumstances as soon as possible (no later than 14 days after the change occurs) in this instance a change in the days and hours that children are cared for (Voluntary part of the Childcare Register); inform Ofsted of the name, date of birth, address and telephone number of any person aged 16 or over working or living on the premises (Voluntary and compulsory part of the childcare register); undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment immediately, where the need for an assessment arises. Ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (Voluntary and compulsory part of the childcare register)

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

You have made good progress with regard to keeping a daily record of the names of children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance. This is kept up to date and children's time of arrival and departure are recorded. You have made satisfactory progress to ensure risk assessments identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis. You have taken action to remove most hazards. However, a packet of bird seed used for an earlier activity remained within children's reach. The information on this packet stated that it must be kept out of children's reach. In addition, the inspector discussed the area to the side of your house. Although this area is not used by children and you state they are supervised they can gain access to it. At the time of the visit there was a pile of wood with protruding nails. You informed the inspector that you would place temporary fencing around this area to prevent children from gaining access to hazardous items. You stated that you would take immediate action to ensure risk assessments are more thorough. Indoor spaces are cleaned prior to children's arrival and pet food is removed from children's reach. Debris from the back garden has been removed and the patio is cleaned before children play outdoors.

You have made good progress to develop your skills and knowledge of the learning and development requirements of the Statutory Framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children's records indicate that you know where the gaps are in children's development and plan activities to support their learning. Discussion took place regarding children learning through informal and fun activities. You have purchased books that encourage children to practise writing. Children are able to choose whether to do this activity. You have ensured the nursery and school have been consulted and are happy for children to use these books.

You have implemented a system to evaluate practice and drive continuous improvement across all areas by putting a daily action plan in place. You review this plan and take action to address any areas for improvement. You have sought support from your local authority early years advisory services to help improve your practice. You have a positive relationship with parents and seek their views on all aspects of your provision. If you identify a significant gap in a child's development, you work with the parent and any other setting that the children attends to support the child. You work in partnership with parents to establish children's starting points and support learning experiences at home.

You have made satisfactory progress to improve the learning environment so that it is more inviting. You involve the children in choosing and purchasing new toys. Children now have more free choice and variety in the equipment and resources they use to promote independent learning. However, there is scope to increase the resources available to offer a wider choice that will interest and challenge children. You plan to purchase more resources in the near future.

Ofsted have been informed of changes of circumstances within 14 days because you are aware that changes to household members must be notified as soon as possible.

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