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Our Reference EY436751

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Charlotte Jenkin, monitored your provision on 05/02/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 05/11/2013, we sent you a notice to improve.

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 observed interaction between you, your assistant and the children and spoke to you about the improvements you have made. The inspector also spoke to a representative from the local authority on the telephone. She looked at your children's records, planning and assessment records, training file and your self-evaluation form, as well as records of the visit from the local authority.

The inspector found that you have developed a suitable action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection and have developed evaluation systems to reflect on the quality of practice of both yourself and your assistant. Although the action plan does not detail the impact you wish this to have on the quality of learning for the children, you were able to talk to the inspector in detail about this. This has enabled you to identify how to address the areas for improvement identified at your last inspection and to plan for ongoing improvement.

Your systems for evaluating your provision are now embedded in practice and demonstrate some of the changes you have made to children's learning experiences. The outdoor area has been developed and this now offers children a more varied learning experience. For example, you have made drainpipes for the children to explore with balls, water, rice and other toys, and have made furniture for a mud kitchen which will soon be ready to go outside when it is weatherproofed. In addition, you and your assistant are discussing and reviewing your practice regularly. This has enabled you to identify areas that you wish to develop, such as extending the range of cultural experiences for children. Planning is now linked more closely to children's interests and their individual next steps in learning in your commitment to ensure that children make sound progress in all the areas of learning.

You and your assistant are booked on a behaviour management course in the next few days to reinforce your knowledge of behaviour management techniques. Through discussion, you demonstrate a sound knowledge of how to manage children's behaviour based on their age and stage of development. During the visit the inspector observed that children are well behaved and that you and your assistant both offer them lots of praise and encouragement. Children, therefore, demonstrate confidence, are kind towards one another and are engaged in their play.

You and your assistant constantly talk to the children during their play and routines, such as nappy changing and lunch time. This shows that you have made improvements to the quality of interactions to help build children's communication and language. You are still aware there are some areas you wish to further develop with regard to promoting and extending children's vocabulary and have found a course for you and your assistant to attend called 'Learning language and loving it'. You demonstrate that you are willing to continue to develop your skills in this area to enhance the children's learning further. You have also introduced more visual timetables and sign language with the children and note how this helps them communicate their basic needs with you, particularly the younger, less verbal children.

You have welcomed the visit you received from the local authority representative and have acted upon the advice given. All paperwork is now in order and required permissions, such as for outings, are now in place for all children. This demonstrates that you are actively promoting their welfare needs.

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.

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