

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231
Fax: 0300 123 3159
Minicom: 0161 618 8524
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk



Our Reference EY445997

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Melanie Arnold, monitored your provision on 12/03/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 18/11/2013, we sent you a notice to improve. The actions you were set are included at the end of this letter.

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 you engaging with children and also observed a planned activity. She held discussions with you and also spoke to the children. The inspector also looked at children's observational assessment files.

The inspector found that improvements have not been made to address the actions raised at the last inspection. There is no action plan detailing how and what needs to be done to make improvements and no process of self-evaluation to ensure the whole setting is monitored and continuous developments are made. This results in continued failures to provide children with quality learning experiences and to protect their health and well-being. You discussed that you had received some telephone support by a representative from the local authority and that you are awaiting for a visit from this representative next week. You stated that you feel this will help you to make improvements to your knowledge of how to plan, observe and assess children's development. However, during observations and discussions with you during the monitoring visit, you demonstrated a clear lack of knowledge of the seven areas of learning. You are not monitoring children's progress to assess their development to ensure every child is making progress within all areas of learning and you are not using this information to plan for children's next steps for learning. You are unable to adequately explain why activities have been planned and why play resources have been set out. You lack a good understanding of how activities actually link to the different areas of learning and you consistently explain how they will promote children's counting, communication or reading skills. This clearly shows a basic level of understanding of child development, which is not taking into account all seven areas of learning. This is hindering the progress children make.

When looking at a child's observational assessment record, it was noted this has not been updated since the last inspection and observations have not been linked to all areas of learning. You are unfamiliar with the characteristics of effective teaching and learning and as such teaching remains poor. Observations made during the monitoring visit show when you engaged in children's play or in planned activities, you missed opportunities to provide challenging, purposeful play experiences for each child. For example, during a planned painting activity you stated you had planned the activity to promote an older children's communication and language skills by encouraging them to discuss their experiences by painting them. However, during the painting activity you failed to engage the child in purposeful learning as you did not question them about what they were painting. When the inspector asked the child about their picture, the child clearly communicated what they had painted and you still failed to extend and provide any further challenge for this child as you did not discuss this with them. Other missed opportunities noted during the monitoring visit related to a child counting from number one to 18, then going back and counting from 14 up to 20 with the child then missing some numbers out. You discussed with the inspector that this was a next step for this particular child, but you failed to count with the child and again failed to engage them in purposeful learning by building-on what the child was actually doing.

Children's health and safety is also potentially still compromised as you have failed to obtain and maintain an approved local authority paediatric first aid certificate. Although you state that you have arranged a course for June, this will be after the date of your next inspection. This means there will be a considerable length of time where you will be without an appropriate first aid certificate.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the childminder has not taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

We will take enforcement action to ensure compliance with children's welfare and/or learning and development requirements.

If you have any further queries please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Fitzjohn
National Director, Childminding

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
ensure that an approved local authority first aid certificate is obtained and maintained	03/03/2014	12/03/2014
increase knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage to support children's learning effectively and review all aspects of learning and assessment to ensure children are making good progress in preparation for their next steps in learning	03/03/2014	12/03/2014
foster a culture of continuous improvement to obtain a clear view of what needs to be done to develop and to bring about improvements for children and the quality of teaching	03/03/2014	18/04/2014
ensure an appropriate first aid qualification is obtained (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	03/03/2014	12/03/2014
ensure an appropriate first aid qualification is obtained (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	03/03/2014	12/03/2014
ensure robust observations of children's learning are undertaken and assess their progress across the seven areas of learning in relation to their age and stage of development, using this information to plan the next steps for each child.	03/03/2014	12/03/2014
make systematic observations of children's learning and assess their progress across the seven areas of learning in relation to their age and stage of development and use this information to plan purposeful next steps for each child	18/04/2014	
develop a good knowledge of the seven areas of learning so that purposeful hands-on learning experiences are planned and provided to build-on what children know and can already do so support each child's ongoing	18/04/2014	

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development