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Our Reference EY466056

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Julie Morrison, monitored your provision on 27/03/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 31/12/2013, 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 also observed you interacting with the children during free play and planned activities. The inspector had a telephone conversation with representatives from the local authority and looked at your self-evaluation form. The inspector also looked at a sample of children's learning journals and the completed progress checks at age two for children aged between two and three years. The inspector also looked at the diaries you have introduced to share information with other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The inspector found that you have welcomed support from your local authority who have visited you regularly to support you in improving your knowledge and skills in specific areas. Through discussion it was clear that you have improved your understanding of the learning and development requirements for the Statutory Framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage. You now observe children as they play, keeping a written record of these observations and linking them appropriately to the areas of learning. This means that you are better able to assess children's next steps and identify any gaps in their learning. You have used this knowledge to more effectively plan enjoyable and challenging activities which are based on children's individual learning and interests. This has resulted in children making more effective progress in their learning and development.

The inspector found that you have implemented the progress check at age two, to review children's progress between the ages of two and three years. You have completed a detailed written summary of children's progress across all areas of learning and you have used this to identify the next steps in children's learning and any gaps in their progress. This has been shared with parents which means that they

are better informed about the progress their children are making in your care.

The inspector found that you are improving the two-way communication with parents and other providers of the Early Years Foundation Stage. For instance, you have a display of the daily planned activities which parents can see and you share your learning journals with parents on a monthly basis. In addition, you ensure that parents are kept up-to-date about their child's learning and care through daily verbal feedback. You also state that you gather verbal feedback from parents at the start about their child's likes and dislikes, although, as yet it is not clear how you are using this information to contribute to assessing children's starting points. To improve the consistency of children's learning for children who attend more than one setting, you have developed a diary to share between settings. This provides information about the activities that children have enjoyed at your setting and while at nursery. You explain that you have been able to use this information to build on the activities that children have enjoyed at nursery within your own setting. Although, the diary only includes general information about activities, you explain that you have also spoken with the children's key person. This has enabled you to discuss any gaps in children's learning and begin to look at shared ways of working to support children.

The inspector found that you are in the early stages of developing your processes of self-evaluation to monitor and evaluate your practice and to identify your areas for future development. You have completed a written evaluation of the care and learning that you currently provide for children. In addition, you have also obtained written feedback from parents about the service you provide. However, although you have clearly been working hard to address the current learning and development actions, you have not yet fully considered how you will continue to identify future areas for development in order to ensure continuous improvement is sustained. You explained that you do intend to continue working with your early years advisors to access training and to continue to further develop your knowledge and skills in all areas.

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.

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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, Childminding

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development to assess children's progress and plan the next steps in their learning	14/01/2014	27/03/2014
develop methods for reviewing children's progress between the age of 24 and 36 months, and provide parents with a short written summary of their child's development in the prime areas	14/01/2014	27/03/2014
develop the arrangements for sharing information about children's learning and development with parents and partnership working with other providers that children attend, in order to fully support and complement children's learning and development	14/01/2014	27/03/2014
develop methods used for self-evaluation, so that it is rigorous and identifies how and when areas for improvement will be achieved.	14/01/2014	27/03/2014