

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 250832

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Linda Cass, monitored your provision on 24/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 21/11/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

The welfare requirement notice required you to address the following:

ensure that you have and implement a policy, and procedures, to safeguard children and this should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children board (LSCB); ensure safeguarding procedures cover the safe use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting; ensure that you care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight, of these six children a maximum of three may be young children, and there should only be one child under the age of one; ensure that any care provided for older children does not adversely affect the care of children receiving early years provision, this refers to ensuring children have sufficient space to play and explore; ensure that the premises and equipment are organised in a way that meets the needs of children and meets the indoor space requirements; ensure you have a clear and well-understood policy, and procedures, for assessing any risks to children's safety, this is in particular regard to assessing the risk and suitability of activities provided for children.

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

ensure you have a clear understanding of your role and responsibility to improve and develop knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, and ensure all requirements are met, in order to provide a safe and suitable care and learning environment which will enable all children to make progress; devise and implement procedures to be followed in the event of a child being uncollected, or when a child goes missing and share them with parents; consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in your care. Use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development; ensure

observations of children are used to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. Use those observations to provide activities that promote children's learning; make available to parents a copy of the written statement for safeguarding procedures (Voluntary and Compulsory part of the Childcare Register); keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Voluntary and Compulsory part of the Childcare Register); update knowledge of child protect issues and procedures to safeguard children from abuse or neglect (Voluntary and Compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

At the monitoring visit on 16 January 2014 you were able to demonstrate that you had taken some action to meet these requirements. Overall progress was satisfactory and a further monitoring visit was to be undertaken.

A monitoring visit took place on 24 April 2014. There were 10 children present ranging from 21 months to 10 years old. The majority of the children attend after school. The organisation of the premises to ensure the care of the older children does not adversely affect the care of children receiving early years provision has improved because you have created additional space. Activities for older children are available in the additional lounge. Children also have the use of the garden where they enjoy playing with a variety of outdoor resources, such as a sand pit and swings. The older children enjoy helping to take care of the younger children and speak to them in a tender and gentle manner. The children are very well behaved and the atmosphere is calm.

The inspector observed that at times you did not always supervise the older children when they were caring for the toddlers. Particularly when they were in the garden. This was discussed with you and you agreed to supervise the younger children more closely. The inspector also observed a potential hazard in the garden which had not been removed prior to children's arrival. You failed to recognise and remove the hazard until it was pointed out to you. You agreed to be more vigilant in identifying and removing risks in the future.

Some progress has been made to offer diverse and challenging activities. For example, you have engaged children's interest in growing their own vegetables by providing them with a vegetable garden where they planted seeds. They proudly point out to the inspector which vegetables are theirs. They learn how to take care of the vegetable plot and what is required for the vegetables to grow. A box of books is now available that children can freely access. You have purchased some additional resources including equipment to promote imaginary play but there is still scope to extend this further.

You consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in your care and provide activities that promote their learning.

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, Childminding