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Our Reference EY446846

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Linda Witts, monitored your provision on 17/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 20/01/2014, 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 your interaction with the children and spoke to a representative local authority development worker on the telephone. It was not possible to speak to the development officer who has provided support, but you kindly made her visit reports available for the inspector. The representative development worker also read details from her colleague's last visit report that had not yet been issued. The inspector reviewed your risk assessments, attendance registers and action plan and assessment systems. She also observed the safety of the premises.

The inspector found that you have developed a clear action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection and that you have quickly implemented these plans. The inspector found that the cords from the lounge window blinds are no longer trailing. They are tied securely around a hook, out of children's reach. A review of risk assessments was completed very promptly in January and you explained how you routinely check the garden for any signs of fouling or other safety hazards. Your daily safety check also includes checking surfaces are clear and sockets covered. Fire drills are completed monthly and records confirm this. Safety measures to monitor babies sleeping upstairs have been increased. The new monitor with a screen means that children who are sleeping can be heard and seen. The premises were seen to be secure and safety gates are used effectively to restrict children's access to areas where closer adult supervision is needed.

At the time of the last inspection an assistant was employed. This assistant was found to have been left unsupervised with children briefly without written parental permission. She also had not completed any first aid training. Following the inspection, written parental permission was obtained to allow you to leave children in the care of the assistant. An addendum to the consents was later added to clarify

under what circumstances this might happen. The assistant also completed a recognised first aid course. However, the assistant is no longer employed and you have not decided whether to employ another. Ofsted has been notified of the assistant leaving, as required.

You have actively welcomed support from your local authority development worker who reports that you have taken effective action, reviewed your practice and are very committed to improvement. You are currently looking, together, at ways to enhance children's learning journals.

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