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Our Reference 252184

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Melanie Arnold, monitored your provision on 06/05/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 23/01/2014, 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 your practice with children and noted the safety and suitability of your home. She also looked at the accessibility and suitability of the toys, resources and equipment. The inspector also spoke to a representative from the local authority over the telephone. She looked at your attendance register, risk assessment checks and children's learning journals.

The inspector found that you have worked on the actions raised at the last inspection and have made improvements in all areas. You are continuing to work on some areas as you are aware that further improvements can still be made to improve the provision for children's care, learning and development. You describe how you are planning to develop a process of self-evaluation to enable you to monitor and evaluate the service you provide. You are aware that this will help you to ensure that all requirements of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage are continually met in the future. You state you are committed to making continuous improvements so children will benefit from improved practice. The representative from the local authority confirmed that you have received support and you have been receptive to the advice she has given. She confirms that improvements have been made since the last inspection.

You demonstrate that children's attendance is now being accurately recorded to show their actual arrival and departure times. You have purchased a new attendance register book to ensure this information is now recorded and maintained to fully meet requirements. The inspector observed that the home is safe and now securely maintained. You confirm that you now have a bolt on the front door to ensure the home is securely maintained. The inspector noted this was used during the

monitoring visit, resulting in children being cared for in a secure home. The inspector found that the home, resources and equipment were well-maintained, clean and suitable for children to use. You explain how toys are regularly cleaned to ensure children's health is protected. You confirm that cleaning procedures are followed as and when necessary to ensure the environment is kept clean for children. You also explain that a new easy wipe table cloth is now used, which enables you to quickly mop up any spillages and maintain a hygienic setting for children.

You explain how you conduct regular risk assessment checks to ensure hazards are identified inside, outside and on outings to ensure children remain safe. A record of risk assessment checks is maintained, confirming how potential hazards have been identified and minimised in all areas used by children, including outings. There were no hazards or risks observed during the monitoring visit by the inspector. The inspector found that children were playing in a safe environment and were under your constant supervision, which ensured their safety.

You explain how you have rearranged the toys and resources to enable children to freely access a suitable range of toys and resources, making the most of the small space available. You confirm that the dining table can be moved further into the kitchen area to provide children with more space when they choose to play with the role play kitchen. You confirm that you have organised toys into baskets and have repositioned these onto the shelving unit to enable varying ages of children to access developmentally appropriate toys and resources. For example, toys for younger children are placed at the bottom of the shelving unit so they can freely access and reach these, while toys for older children are placed slightly higher up. You also explain that you have further toys and resources stored on the first floor, which you regularly rotate round to provide children with more variety and choice. For example, you discuss how you take into account who is being cared for each day, noting their interests and developmental stages. You then plan the environment accordingly, setting out different resources for children to freely access each day, which meet their needs. You are also planning to further develop children's independent choice of activities and resources by developing a resource choice book. This book will contain photographs of all of your toys and resources, providing children with more free choice of activities.

The inspector found that you have a suitable understanding of how to promote children's learning and development. You explain how each child has a learning journey where you complete observations and assessments to track and monitor their progress. Observations are clearly linked to each area and aspect of learning. They also note the age band for development, which the child is working in. You explain how you use this information to track children's progress and to identify and plan appropriate activities to support children's next steps for learning. Observations currently made on children are very in-depth, time consuming and link to the majority of areas of learning. You confirm that while these may still be used, you are looking into how to make observations shorter and more sharply focused to truly capture more of children's achievements as they arise. You are planning to only make links to the permanent areas of learning in which the child is achieving. You

explain that you are continuing to work on how you plan for children's next steps for learning, to fully ensure you are continually building on what children already know and can do.

The inspector observed you engaging in play with children and using appropriate teaching strategies to support their learning. For example, when climbing up and down the stairs you promoted children's mathematical awareness as you encouraged them to count the steps. When playing a simple game of skittles, you advised the child what to do and modelled how to roll and not throw the ball. The child listened, followed instructions and rolled the ball after they had observed you doing this. You continually talk to children as they play and ask appropriate questions, which promote their language and communication skills. You also carefully observe children's play, engaging where appropriate, but also allowing children to develop their own play without your involvement. For example, when a child begins playing under the table and advises you that they are searching for treasure, you allow them to freely explore and use their imagination. You observe, engage and show interest where appropriate, but do not get too involved, which allows the child to explore their own ideas.

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

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
improve recording of children's attendance to ensure this is an accurate, daily register of their hours of care	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
ensure the premises are safe and suitable with particular regard to ensuring the home is secure and that the home and equipment are clean	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
ensure hazards are identified and risks to children minimised through effective risk assessment of the premises both indoors and outside, including the garden and for outings	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
ensure space and resources within the home are organised to allow children safe and free access to a wide range of activities	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
keep a daily record of the names of children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
keep a daily record of the names of children looked after on the premises and their hours of attendance (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	14/02/2014	06/05/2014
undertake a risk assessment of the premises and equipment to ensure that	14/02/2014	06/05/2014

all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

use information obtained from observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. Shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations to help children make the best possible progress in their learning and development.	31/03/2014	06/05/2014
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