

Our Reference EY405092

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Melanie Arnold, monitored your provision on 15/05/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 21/02/2014, 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 to see how effectively you engage with children and support their learning. The inspector also spoke to a representative from the local authority. She looked at your illness and exclusion policy and records relating to children's progress and development.

The inspector found that you have worked on the actions raised at the last inspection and have made suitable improvements in all areas. You are continuing to work on a few areas, namely relating to observational assessment systems, as you are aware that further improvements can still be made to fully develop the provision for children's learning and development. You explained how you are planning to implement a process of self-evaluation to enable you to monitor and evaluate the service you provide, so that you can ensure continuous improvements are made. You detailed how you are fully committed to making and sustaining improvements in all areas. The representative from the local authority confirmed that you have received support, which is continuing, and that you have been receptive to the advice she has given. She confirms that you have been proactive in seeking information and systems for yourself, as you are committed to moving forward. She confirms that improvements have been made since the last inspection.

You explained how you have obtained information on the Early Years Foundation Stage through relevant guidance documents and leaflets, which you have now shared with parents. Parents also now receive information on the range of activities that their children will participate in while in your care. You also detailed how you are keeping parents more informed about their children's daily care and learning needs, through the use of written daily diaries. You now also encourage parents to use

these diaries to provide you with information from home relating to children's interests and achievements. You are now aware of the importance of liaising with other early years settings when the care of children is shared to ensure that continuity of care and learning is promoted. You are hoping to use the daily diaries to continually share information with these other settings. You explained how you are in the process of arranging a visit to children's other settings, with parents' permission, to view children's learning journals. This will provide you with more information about children's development, which you can then build upon within your provision.

The inspector found that you have a suitable understanding of how to promote children's learning and development. You have all about me documents, which parents now complete when their children first start attending your provision. This provides you with key information on children's individual needs. You explain that you are continuing to develop your knowledge of how to use this to clearly identify children's starting points. You are beginning to complete observation on children's interests and you are in the process of linking these to the areas and aspects of learning using relevant guidance documents. You are also starting to assess children's developmental stages, to ensure that each child is making expected levels of progress within all areas of learning. Activities are planned for children following their interests and you explained how you differentiate activities to ensure all children are included at their level of ability. You are in the early stages of identifying and planning for children's next steps for learning. Presently, you identify more activity based next steps, which adequately promote children's ongoing learning and development. However, you are aware that to make children's learning more effective and challenging, you need to utilise the information from your observational assessments more effectively. This will ensure that all areas of learning are promoted with children. Observational assessments are shared with parents to ensure they are aware of children's current levels of development.

The inspector observed you engaging with children, using a suitable range of teaching strategies to promote children's learning. You had planned a suitable range of adult-led activities and experiences for the child and you also allowed the child time to explore and to freely initiate their own play. Children freely access developmentally appropriate toys and resources in the designated play room, which enables them to initiate their own play. You explain how you informally plan a suitable range of activities for children to participate in, to ensure that they remain stimulated while in your care. The inspector observed you promoting discussions with children and asking appropriate questions as they played. This supports their language, communication and thinking skills. You also allowed children to mix different resources together as they played as you followed children's interests. You also responded to situations as they arose, seizing opportunities to promote children's development. For example, when playing with the play dough a child stuck lots of different lollypop sticks into the dough as they explained that this was a birthday cake. You immediately challenged the child by asking them how many candles were in the birthday cake. Children were continually engaged and actively engaged in activities during the monitoring visit. You are able to appropriately

explain how children's play links to different areas of learning. You are also aware that this is another area which you are continuing to develop your knowledge in so that you can fully recognise the learning potential of every activity to then maximise children's learning in all areas.

You explained how you are more proactive in implementing health and illness policies and procedures to ensure children are protected from the risk of cross infection. You have obtained new information leaflets on exclusion periods and also have a new illness policy. Both of these have been shared with parents and they are also displayed on the notice board for parents' continued information and access. You explained how you now enforce these policies with parents, to ensure you do not provide care for children when they are ill. This results in children's health being better protected.

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
provide parents with information about how the Early Years Foundation Stage is being delivered to children, the range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, and how parents and carers can share learning at home, with specific reference to the progress children are making in their learning and development	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
provide parents with information about the activities the children will undertake (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
provide parents with information about the activities the children will undertake (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
implement the learning and development requirements effectively by improving knowledge of what is required and by developing the skills that enable this knowledge to be translated effectively into practice	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
undertake assessment of children's learning to track and prioritise children's progress and developmental needs	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
plan challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child in all areas of learning that reflect each child's individual needs, interests and stage of development	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
implement each area of learning through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
put in place arrangements for sharing information with other professionals working with the child to enable a two-way flow of information between providers, when a child is attending more than one setting	21/03/2014	15/05/2014
promote the good health of children by	21/03/2014	15/05/2014

Our Reference EY405092

taking necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection and by taking appropriate action if children are ill.