

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 EY378772

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Maria Conroy, monitored your provision on 03/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 02/12/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

The Welfare Requirement Notice related to 'child protection' and 'safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment'. At the monitoring visit on 31 January 2014, you were found to have taken satisfactory steps to address the areas identified to keep children safe. You had completed an online safeguarding course and had a written child protection procedure in place, which included the use of mobile telephones and cameras. You also had access to relevant telephone numbers for the required departments should you need to make a referral. The hazard of the electric fire within the children's play area had been removed and you confirmed it would not be used again. In addition you had reviewed your risk assessments to ensure they identify all hazards within the areas accessed by the children.

At the monitoring visit carried out on 3 June 2014 you demonstrated you have continued to make progress to improve your practice. You have since completed another safeguarding training course, which you confirmed has enabled you to understand possible signs and symptoms of abuse. During the visit, you were able to demonstrate this by giving examples. You confirmed that children may disclose information to you about the abuse; the language they use may not be appropriate for their age; there may be bruising on their body or they may not want to go home with the adult collecting them. You confirmed you are clear about the procedure to be followed in the event of making a child protection referral and who you would contact. As a result of your improved knowledge, this helps you to protect and safeguard children in your care. You continue to ensure that areas and equipment used by the children are safe and suitable. This is done by undertaking regular risk assessments and removing hazards from the environment. Children also participate in regular fire drills ensuring they are able to get out of the premise promptly and safely. As a result of the action taken children are able to play in a suitable and safe environment.

You were asked to adapt the use of the indoor and outdoor learning environments to fully enable all children to develop child-initiated play. You have re-organised the indoor play area making it more child friendly. You did this by displaying games, toys and puzzles on open shelves, so children can have easy access. Books are displayed on a low level book case, which invites children to read them. In addition you also use the mobile library to extend the type of reading materials available to the children. The piano has been removed from the play area, giving more space for children to use the floor space for play. You explained children enjoy doing art work in that area. You demonstrated that children have opportunities to play outdoors including use of bikes, trampoline, slides and balancing equipment in the garden. They also enjoy chalking on the pavement, throwing and catching balls and taking part in pretend play by dressing up and using the tent. Children have further opportunities to play on different types of equipment in the local park. Therefore children are provided with suitable play spaces and enabled to access a wider range of toys, books and equipment.

You were asked to support children's understanding of difference and of empathy by using props. You have completed training on Cultural Diversity, where you told me you learnt information about different cultures and the festivals celebrated. You have begun to use this information to implement activities to support the children in your care learning about diversity. For example, during Easter, children enjoyed making baskets and bunnies and an Easter garden. You have bought some puppets, which reflect different skin tones, which children can make. In addition you have added some resources to your toy collection. Children also enjoy taking part in cooking activities where they try different types of foods. When children are placed in your care you explained you seek information about each child, enabling you to provide suitable care to meet children's individual needs.

You have made satisfactory progress in becoming familiar with the seven areas of learning and use children's interests to provide a challenging range of activities. You use your guidance books to help support you in understanding the learning and development requirements. You were able to tell me about the children's interests and how you use these to plan and provide different activities both indoors and outdoors. For example, some children enjoy digging, as a result you provide a sand pit, water and tools to enable them to dig and explore. You told me they recently dug in the soil to find worms and planted flowers. You are beginning to think how each activity links to the different areas of learning and this is an area that you will continue to develop. You undertake observations, linking them to the different areas of learning. You use photographs to support those, sharing them with parents. In addition you gain information from parents, which enable you to find out what their children do when they are at home. This contributes to the planning of suitable activities for individual children.

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