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Our Reference EY371729

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Lorraine Anne Lawton, monitored your provision on 23/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 06/01/2014, we sent you a notice to improve. If you were set actions at the inspection, or as a result of our subsequent monitoring or investigations, these are included at the end of this letter unless we have already verified that they have been completed.

The actions raised in the notice under the Early Years Foundation Stage Welfare Requirements asked you to: ensure risk assessments are effective in removing or minimising all risks to children's safety, this includes: removing outdoor recycling boxes and old carpet, ensuring the washing line is not within reach of children and carpet gripper in the bedroom is inaccessible to children; ensure the planning of challenging and enjoyable learning experiences is improved and includes daily access to outdoor activities, an appropriate range of adult-led activities and a wider range of resources and develop methods for completing observations and assessments and use these and good quality teaching, to identify and target children's next steps in their learning, so they make good progress in every area of learning.

There were also actions raised relating to safeguarding and suitable people in respect of the Childcare Register Requirements.

As a result of the monitoring visit on 23 April 2014, the inspector is of the view that arrangements for assessing risks both indoors and outdoors are now more effective. This is because risk assessments are more detailed and a new 'hot spot' assessment is implemented which ensures all risks are monitored and steps taken to control the hazard. Steps, you have taken, such as the purchase of a retractable washing line and removal of recycling boxes from the garden are just two examples of effective risk assessment. As a result, children are kept safe within the setting.

The inspector is also of the view that children have access to interesting resources and activities that offer sufficient challenge to children, including the use of information technology. This is evident from your efforts to ensure children

enthusiastically engage in activities. For example, children experience, 'things that are English' to celebrate Saint George's Day, as they make tea in a china teapot and drink from china cups. In addition, your revised and improved planning of educational programmes demonstrates that children are offered a good balance of both adult and child-initiated activities. Planning is now completed on a daily and weekly basis as opposed to monthly. Your improved observation and assessment arrangements also show what children have achieved from an activity and their next steps. Summative assessments are also completed for new children in order to provide a baseline assessment. In addition, parental comments contribute to the accuracy of their child's assessment and documentation is now combined into one record. Consequently, this provides a more simplified system to assess all information and influence further planning to support children's individual learning and development needs and effectively support their progress.

The outdoor area is being improved with the laying of an artificial lawn. As a result, although children are taken out on a daily basis, to the local area or to play in the garden, the new surface will provide more opportunities for children to exercise and receive fresh air during inclement weather.

You articulate a sound knowledge of children's development stages and you demonstrate effective teaching by modelling being a 'thinker'. You encourage children to solve problems, identify solutions and you respond appropriately to what children are doing. For example, you ask children if they want to talk on the telephone and you ask them to show you how it works. Alongside your co-childminder, you organise activities that build on children's interests. For example, you take children on a bus and a train ride to extend their experience of rides at a theme park and they keep their tickets as a souvenir. You encourage children to talk about their feelings and you support their transition to other settings or school. As a result, children are well supported in their personal, social and emotional well-being.

The inspector recognises the drive you have shown to make improvements and meet requirements. You have achieved this through support from the local authority advisory team and by implementation of your own action plan and your self-evaluation. You have also kept parents fully informed and you have invited their comments to help assist you and your co-childminder and assistants in the drive to improve to ensure children make good progress.

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

Nick Hudson
National Director, Early Education

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	06/01/2014	23/04/2014
develop methods for completing observations and assessments and use these and good quality teaching, to identify and target children's next steps in their learning, so they make good progress in every area of learning	31/03/2014	23/04/2014
ensure the planning of challenging and enjoyable learning experiences is improved and includes daily access to outdoor activities, an appropriate range of adult-led activities and a wider range of resources	31/03/2014	23/04/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	06/01/2014	23/04/2014
ensure risk assessments are effective in removing or minimising all risks to children's safety, this includes: removing outdoor recycling boxes and old carpet, ensuring the washing line is not within reach of children and carpet gripper in the bedroom is inaccessible to children.	10/01/2014	23/04/2014