

Our Reference 322225

## **Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate**

An Ofsted inspector, Frank Kelly, monitored your provision on 03/09/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

## **Outcome of monitoring**

As a result of our inspection on 09/05/2014, 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.

During the monitoring visit the inspector discussed with you the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. The inspector discussed with you, your action plans and quality improvement plans. He undertook a tour of the areas of your home that are used to care for children. He verified the suitability of adults living or present in the home and that you maintain a valid first-aid certificate. He observed you play and interact with the children and you made available the improved records for monitoring and tracking the children's learning. You also explained your revised methods for engaging with parents with regard to children's learning; and how you plan activities that are now based on children's individual needs and interests.

The inspector was unable to speak with the representative from the local authority during the visit. However, he found that with the support of the local authority you have taken sufficiently robust action to begin to address the issues raised at the last inspection. You confirmed your intention and plans for creating a formal action plan, to use to monitor the effectiveness of the changes you have put into place, since your last inspection. The inspector found that you have revised the records you maintain regarding the assessment of children's learning. These are based on relevant guidance documents so you can securely identify if children are operating above, below or within the typical stages of development for their ages. You explained that when new children start you will use this tracking document to share with parents to establish children's starting points. You also discussed how you intend to share the revised records of learning with parents on a more regular basis. Consequently, you have put into place more robust methods for observing and assessing children and engaging parents to support and promote the children's

learning.

The inspector discussed with you the revised systems for planning activities. You shared with him your revised plans that you have created for each of the children. You discussed with him how you are using your observations and the tracker document to identify potential gaps in children's learning and plan for children's next steps in learning. You explained that these revised systems for planning and recording children's progress are still in the very early stages as the children did not attend during the school holidays. However, the records you shared with the inspector demonstrated that you have identified and begun to implement a system that supports you to plan activities that are more purposeful and of interest to the children.

The inspector observed you interacting with the children and supporting their learning. In particular he noted that you offered children choices about what they choose to play with and where they want to play. To add variety to the activities on offer you made suggestions, such as inviting them to paint pictures. The children eagerly joined in and demonstrated a familiarity and obvious enjoyment of such activities. During this activity the inspector noted that you resisted the temptation to direct the children as previously identified at your last inspection. Instead you instigated several discussions, which supported children to talk about their pictures and extend their communication and language skills. You acknowledged that there are still occasions when you use inappropriate descriptors such as 'birdy' and 'horsey' but you are making an effort to change your practice. Children were eager participants and discussed their pictures of dinosaurs and pigs in detail. You talked to them about where they would sit on the bus and invited them to discuss who they thought would be on the aeroplane they noticed as it flew overhead. Toys, activities and other play resources are invitingly set out and easily accessible, within the main play room. Children were observed to seek out familiar and favourite toys. They played on the floor and table and moved things out into the garden. With your support they shared the resources and worked with each other to fit the train track together. You ensured that all children present were able to take part. In addition, you introduced counting and asked appropriate questions to help them think critically during this activity. As a result, you demonstrated that you are developing your skills and are beginning to reflect on your own practice to support and enhance the quality of teaching and learning for children as they play.

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
improve teaching to ensure children make good progress in all areas of learning, particularly in the prime areas, for example, communication and language	28/06/2014	03/09/2014
plan a range of activities, based on children's needs and interests, to engage children in purposeful play, make independent choices and allow them to actively learn through exploring and being creative	28/06/2014	03/09/2014
establish appropriate systems to assess children's achievements, including their starting points, so that progress can be tracked over time and their next steps appropriately planned for	28/06/2014	03/09/2014
improve systems for sharing information with parents, so that they know what their child is learning and can promote learning at home.	28/06/2014	03/09/2014