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Our Reference 302743

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Helen Blackburn, monitored your provision on 25/09/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 22/07/2014, 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, your action planning and the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed interactions between you and the children. She looked at documentation relating to parental consents, observation, planning and assessment. She discussed your safeguarding arrangements and how you support children's learning.

The inspector found that you have welcomed the support your local authority representative has offered. You explained that you are continuing to work closely with them, to further develop your practice, in readiness for your next inspection. You discussed that you agreed a plan of action with your local authority representative to address the issues raised at your last inspection. This has enabled you to accurately prioritise the areas for improvement and this supports you in planning for your ongoing development.

The inspector found that since the last inspection, you have completed some safeguarding training. You also demonstrated that you have booked on an advanced safeguarding training course. You explained this training, alongside regular discussions with your local authority representative, is helping you to understand the signs of abuse and neglect. Consequently, children are safeguarded.

You explained that your contracts with parents include obtaining their permission for children to take part in outings. This means parents are now aware of the activities their children take part in away from the childminding home.

You explained to the inspector that you are now routinely linking your observations to the areas of learning to assess children's progress in each area. You discussed, this is helping you become more familiar with the seven areas of learning. You explained that during your support visits, your local authority representative is modelling good practice. This, you explained, has improved your understanding of good quality interactions to support children's ongoing progression and learning.

Furthermore, the inspector found that you have booked yourself onto observation, planning and assessment training to support you in understanding your role in planning for children's individual learning needs. The inspector found that you have devised an 'All About Me' form to gather information from parents about children's likes and interests. You explained that you are now making use of an assessment form to track children's progress and this is the basis of gathering information about children's prior skills and starting points. You discussed that you have completed tracking children's progress training. You told the inspector this has helped you to plan challenging and motivating activities that capture children's interests. Furthermore, you explained that your action planning includes developing a booklet displaying the range of equipment available. You told the inspector that this is to provide children with more opportunities to choose what they want to play with.

You told the inspector that you now routinely discuss children's progress and assessments with parents. You talked about how this improved communication has helped parents to support their children's learning at home. You also explained that partnership working remains a strong focus of development in your action planning and work with the local authority representative.

You showed that you have obtained planning information from other settings children attend, so that you are aware of children's experiences away from the childminding home. You told the inspector that you now talk to other settings or professionals involved in children's learning more frequently. You explained that this has helped you to plan for continuity in children's learning.

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
access further training to improve knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse, to help identify children who may be at risk of harm or abuse	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
ensure written permission is obtained from all parents for children to go on outings	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
develop understanding of the seven areas of learning, to improve the quality of teaching so that learning experiences are promoted through good quality interactions with children that support their progress towards the early learning goals	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
use information obtained about children's skills, interests and preferences for learning to plan educational programmes and provide resources that capture their interest, challenge them and motivate them to learn	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
develop partnerships with parents to involve them in the assessment of their children's learning; ensure information about their children's development is regularly shared with them and they are kept them informed about how their children are progressing towards the early learning goals	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
develop partnerships with other early years providers and ensure information is shared with them about children's learning to make sure assessment of children's progress is correct and children experience continuity in their learning.	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
ensure that children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	05/08/2014	25/09/2014
ensure that children receiving childcare	05/08/2014	25/09/2014

are kept safe from harm (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).