

Compliance action taken for childcare provision

EY495476/C297802

Date: 12/11/2016

Summary of outcome

On 18 October 2016 the provider notified us that a child had left the premises unaccompanied and unnoticed by staff. The child was returned by a member of the public three to five minutes later. The provider met their legal responsibility as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage welfare requirements relation go 'suitable people', to notify Ofsted of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the early years provider or any person who cares for, or who is in regular contact with children.

We carried out an unannounced visit to the provider to discuss the incident. We found that staff did not follow risk assessment procedures put in place when the bolt on a door leading to the lobby area was broken. Staff, including the senior person in charge at the time of the incident, left children unattended in an area where they had access to the door with the broken lock. The provider took some action to investigate the incident, and took disciplinary action against some staff members involved. However, insufficient action was taken to ensure that staff understood and followed risk assessment procedures. Staff failed to supervise children effectively. The provider failed to take identified weaknesses in staff practice into account when assessing risks. We also found the garden area unsafe for children's use, and resources in the baby room did not meet children's needs. The provider is not meeting requirements of the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, namely:

'Risk assessment' In particular providers must ensure that they take all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children in their care are not exposed to risks and must be able to demonstrate how they are managing risks..Risk assessments should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.

'Safety' In particular providers must ensure that their premises, including overall floor space and outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose and suitable for the age of children cared for and the activities provided on the premises.

Providers must comply with requirements of health and safety legislation (including fire safety and hygiene requirements).

'Staff:child ratios. In particular that staffing arrangements must meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. Providers must ensure that children are adequately supervised and decide how to deploy staff to ensure children's needs are met.. Children must usually be within sight and hearing of staff and always within sight or hearing.

'Staff qualifications, training, support and skills'. In particular that providers must put appropriate arrangements in place for the supervision of staff who have contact with children and families. Effective supervision provides support, coaching and training for the practitioner and promotes the interests of children.

And the provider must ensure there is a named deputy who, in their judgement, is capable and qualified to take charge in the manager's absence. Following the visit, we issued a notice to improve/ welfare requirement notice that required the provider to:

ensure that staffing arrangements meet children's needs and keep them safe, this is with particular reference to making sure that children are not left unsupervised both in rooms and in communal areas, and ensure that staffing arrangements adapt to any specific circumstances that may change on a daily basis.

ensure that there is always a deputy manager who is sufficiently skilled and knowledgeable to take an effective lead in the manager's absence, so that requirements are continuously met to keep children safe and well.

implement effective supervision and training systems to ensure that all practitioners understand their roles and responsibilities, this is with particular reference to staff understanding of how to effectively supervise children to keep themselves safe, and to improve their understanding of identifying and managing risks to children.

ensure that risk assessments identify and minimise all potential hazards to children to make the premises fit for purpose and suitable for the age of children cared for; this is with particular reference to making sure that all entrances and exits remain secure and removing broken wooden borders and all broken and unusable toys in the outdoor area.

ensure that there is a suitable range of resources that are organised to meet the needs of all children who attend the setting; this is with particular reference to improving the range and quality of play equipment in the baby room, and in the outdoor area. We carried out an unannounced visit to the setting to monitor compliance with the notices. We found the provider had taken appropriate action to meet requirements. The provider remains registered with Ofsted.

Publication of compliance action

We aim to ensure that the welfare of children and young people is protected in the services we regulate. The Childcare Act 2006 and accompanying regulations set out our responsibilities to regulate childminders and childcare providers. This includes the enforcement powers we have in relation to those registered providers who do not comply with the requirements for registration.

We publish details of any actions we take, or the childminder or childcare provider takes to bring about compliance with requirements on our website for a period of five years commencing on the date we complete our investigation.

For further information please read the *Early years compliance handbook* which can be found here at www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-provider-non-compliance-action-by-ofsted .