

Compliance action taken for childcare provision

400147/C297733

Date: 15/11/2016

Summary of outcome

On 17 September 2016 the provider notified us of an incident that occurred, where a child was left unsupervised in the garden for approximately two to four minutes during the transition from outdoor play back inside to the tweenies playroom. The notification means that the provider met their legal responsibility as set out in the early years foundation stage welfare requirements to notify Ofsted of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the early years provider or any other person who cares for, or is in regular contact with, children on the premises to look after children. We need to investigate to see whether the provider is meeting the early years foundation stage welfare requirements relating to safeguarding practice; safeguarding policy; Staff: child ratios; and risk assessments. In particular, the requirements: providers must take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. 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. 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.

We carried out an unannounced visit on 2 November 2016; we observed the premises and equipment, looked at documentation and discussed the incident with the management who were available on the day. We found that the provider had carried out an investigation into the incident and had found that some of the usual routines such as, completing a check of the entranceway toilet and a head count of children into the nursery had not been followed by the staff. This resulted in a child being able to 'hide' in the entranceway toilet

and to then return to the garden unsupervised for a short period of time before staff noticed they were not present. The provider has taken appropriate action against all staff involved. A full review of the risk assessment for outside play has been put in place. A slide bolt has been added to the entranceway toilet and a new protocol added to ensure this door is locked when not in use. Staff complete additional head counts as children come in from outside play and the last member of staff does not come inside until all children are accounted for.

We found that although staff complete security and safety checks of the garden area before children come out to play the provider has not identified and taken all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised persons from entering the garden when children are outside playing or children from leaving the garden unsupervised. The main gate into the nursery grounds and children's outside play areas has a 'loop over catch' on the top which prevents children from leaving the premises. However, parents and visitors can let themselves into the garden when children are playing outside without staff first checking their identity. Although children play in designated play areas, which have low level fencing and gates, at transition times when children are coming out or going back inside they gather in the area between the main gate and the nursery entrance which leaves the potential for a visitor to open the gate and a child to leave the premises unsupervised.

Following our visit, we sent the provider a notice to improve that asked them to:

ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent unauthorised persons entering the premises and that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised, with particular regards to strengthening the security procedures for the main gate and the outside play area when it is being used by children.

We are satisfied with the action taken by the provider.

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 .