

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231
Fax: 0300 123 3159
Minicom: 0161 618 8524
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk



Our Reference EY274903

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Julie Larnar, monitored your provision on 13/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 22/04/2014, we sent you a welfare requirements notice. 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.

The welfare requirements notice required you to comply with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage under the following requirements: Outings and Staff:Child ratios. The steps you were required to take were detailed in full in the notice sent out to you on 15 May 2014. A notice to improve was also issued on 15 May 2014 under the following requirements: Suitable people and Information about the provider.

During the monitoring visit of 3 July 2014 the inspector discussed with you the steps you had taken to address the notice to improve and how you had met the welfare requirements notice. The inspector looked at your attendance records for children, and the assistants who work at your setting.

You told the inspector that you have improved your procedures to ensure children are always safe when they are taken on outings. You told us that you have ordered brightly coloured tabards for the children to wear to ensure they are easily identifiable when you take them out. You also told us that you do regular head counts when you are on an outing. You have improved your procedures by using children's names on the register instead of only the number of children that are present on each day. You now make sure that children's names are added to the register when they arrive late to join in with outings, which ensures that all children are accounted for when returning from such activities. You told us that you ensure children are well supervised on outings by looking at their individual abilities and using appropriate safety equipment such as reins. The children's attendance records have been improved and these now contain the actual times that children arrive and depart from your setting, rather than their contracted hours.

You told the inspector that you now keep a record of the times the assistants are working at your setting, additionally you maintain a record of the times they have sole care of the children, to ensure that this does not exceed more than two hours in a day. Your recruitment and selection procedures for assistants consist of having sight of relevant checks, awaiting confirmation of their suitability until they are left unsupervised with minded children and also completing a six month probationary period.

You told the inspector how children's personal, social and emotional development is promoted. You establish a safe learning environment by teaching the children about safety; support them to follow routines and provide them with positive praise. You also ensure that they have lots of opportunities to socialise with other children, for example, through regular visits to groups in the local community.

The inspector discussed what they had found at a previous visit to your setting on 29 May 2014 when you were on holiday and your co-childminder was in charge. The inspector observed that children sleep at the bottom of the stairs, which poses a risk in the event of an emergency evacuation and injury to the children where adults may need to access the stairs and have to step over and in between the sleeping children. Also the assistants working on that day were unable to locate the correct key to open the gate at the front of the premises. Although you told us that the assistants all know where the keys are and also which one they should use, this posed a risk to children in the event of evacuating the premises in an emergency situation. We raised notices to improve for both of these issues to ensure that the welfare requirements in The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage are met.

On 7 June 2014 Ofsted received a complaint that raised concerns about, assistants being in sole care of children for more than two hours; the correct staff : child ratios not being met; information not being shared with parents, and parents not being informed of incidents that happen while the childminder cares for their children; fire drills being recorded but not practised; a babysitting service being operated while you were on holiday and that your daughter goes to another childminder's setting in order for you to meet required ratios. We needed to investigate this concern to see whether you were meeting the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. We do not investigate to prove or disprove a complaint but we look into the information we receive to see if the childcare provider is meeting all legal requirements.

The inspector discussed these issues as part of the unannounced monitoring visit. You told the inspector that parents had not yet been informed of the previous inspection grading; however, you said that you had only recently received and been

able to look at the inspection report and you wanted to challenge some aspects. When checking your records the inspector found that there were occasions where the correct ratios had not been met. These have been on occasions where you have used the exception criteria to the usual ratios set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage. However, you did not have a sufficient understanding of this and consequently you have taken on new business rather than ensuring that the exception is only used to accommodate sibling babies or for your own child. We found that fire drills are both practised and recorded. A babysitting service was provided on your premises by one of the assistants for one day while you were on holiday. The inspector told you that you could only provide this service in the child's own home and not on your premises in the future. You told the inspector that your daughter does go to another child-minder's setting one day a week to ensure that ratios are met. However, if there is an emergency situation, for example, where your child is unwell you have appropriate arrangements in place to ensure ratios continue to be met.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the childminder has not taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

The next step will be further monitoring.

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 assistants are competent and suitable for the areas of work they undertake, with specific regard to obtaining information on assistants through an application process and obtaining suitable references	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
maintain an accurate record of the names of children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
support children's personal, social and emotional development by ensuring they are always learning in an environment where they are well supervised and can feel safe and secure.	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
ensure childminding assistants are only left for a maximum of two hours per day (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
ensure childminding assistants are only left for a maximum of two hours per day (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
ensure an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check has been obtained through Ofsted for all persons having unsupervised contact with children (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
ensure an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check has been obtained through Ofsted for all persons having unsupervised contact with children (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
keep a daily record of the names of children and their hours of attendance (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
keep a daily record of the names of	23/05/2014	13/06/2014

children and their hours of attendance
(voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

ensure children are kept safe on outings by ensuring they are adequately supervised at all times	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
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ensure children are not left with assistants for more than two hours at most in a single day	23/05/2014	13/06/2014
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