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Dear Sir/Madam

Ofsted survey inspection programme – narrowing the gap in literacy and numeracy

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on 13 October 2008 to look at work in literacy and numeracy.

As outlined in the initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on how well you meet the needs of all children in relation to their literacy and numeracy, with particular consideration to those at risk of not reaching their full potential. The visit also evaluated the level of expertise to support children learning English as an additional language (EAL).

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing settings but these will not be identified in the main text. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included interviews with you, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of children's work and observation of children's play.

The overall effectiveness of provision for literacy and numeracy was judged to be outstanding.

Learning and development

The quality of learning and development is outstanding.

- Children have excellent relationships with you and enjoy the high level of individual time and support they receive; your enthusiastic and exciting approach to learning is infectious and enables children to participate in all activities.

- Children progress quickly in literacy and numeracy because you support and extend their learning extremely well.
- You ensure children are well nourished and ready for learning.
- You use communication and information technology incredibly well to create resources for children to widen their experiences, for example, 'the listening game'.

Leadership and management of literacy and numeracy

The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.

- You demonstrate an excellent grasp of the early learning goals for literacy and numeracy, with which you assess children's capabilities and plan their next steps in learning.
- You develop highly effective relationships with parents and other professionals to support each child and enable them to reach their full potential.
- You evaluate your provision effectively, reflecting on your practice and continually seek to improve the outcomes for children.

English as an additional language

- There are no children attending currently who speak English as an additional language.
- You have not undertaken any training in supporting children learning English as an additional language.

How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?

Inclusion in literacy and numeracy is outstanding.

- You provide an extensive variety of interesting and stimulating activities and resources, which you adapt to meet the individual abilities and interests of each child in your care.
- You have established excellent systems for recording individual children's achievements and next steps in learning, as a result children have their individual needs met.

Areas for development, which we discussed, included:

- seeking training to support children learning English as an additional language, if required.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop literacy and numeracy in your setting.

As was explained in the previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the inspector for your next inspection.

Yours sincerely

Judith Butler
Inspector