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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 20 November 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.

- You meet the learning needs of the children very effectively, offering a wide variety of both adult and child-led activities for children of all ages.
- You are skilled at integrating all aspects of literacy and numeracy into every activity, both child and adult-led.

- You make extremely good use of questioning, including encouraging the children to ask questions and listen to the response.

Leadership and management of literacy and numeracy

The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.

- You provide children with healthy nourishing meals, ensuring they are ready to learn.
- You have very clear documentation for assessment and observation, linked to literacy and numeracy, showing a clear record of achievement for each child.
- You provide a stimulating curriculum based around individual children, their interests and strengths, which ensure they cover literacy and numeracy effectively.

English as an additional language

Expertise in English as an additional language is outstanding.

- Without training, you go to great lengths to learn key words in the children's first language enabling you to communicate and develop their expertise in English.

How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?

Inclusion in literacy and numeracy is outstanding.

- You are extremely skilled in including all children in every activity, enabling them to take part at their individual developmental level.
- The stimulating, wide range of activities you provide is tailored to the individual needs of the children present each day. You know each child extremely well and know the next steps of learning for them in every area, enabling you to fully develop each child's potential.

Areas for development, which we discussed, included:

- labelling the storage boxes in the play room, using both words and pictures, enabling children to identify their content easily
- seeking training to support children learning EAL, if needed.

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

Ann Guy

Inspector, Children's Directorate