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10/11/2008
Mrs Shabnam Bi
Anglesey Playgroup Committee
Nursery Road
Hockley
Birmingham
West Midlands
B19 2YA

Dear Mrs Bi

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

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on 5 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.

- Children develop excellent relationships with experienced staff, from whom they enjoy high levels of individual time and attention.

- Children enjoy a wide range of literacy experiences delivered by the confident staff team, for example, song and story time, including excellent use of props, such as the masks and puppets.
- Staff ensure children are well nourished and ready to learn.

Leadership and management of literacy and numeracy

The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.

- The high adult/child ratios and effective deployment of staff enables children to make quick progress in literacy and numeracy, in relation to their starting points. However, staff do not always follow the same approach to letter formation as the next setting the children attend.
- You and your staff appreciate, and benefit from, courses provided by the local authority; subsequently, this impacts positively on the outcomes for children in literacy and numeracy.
- Staff evaluate effectively to reflect on their practice, continually seeking to improve the outcomes for children.

English as an additional language

- Staff go to considerable lengths to establish warm relationships with children's families, working closely with them to help children learn English, whilst acknowledging their home 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.

- Staff know each child extremely well. They use this knowledge to plan individually for each child who attends the playgroup.
- Children are greeted in their home language and offered a high level of individual support from bi-lingual staff.

Areas for development, which we discussed, included:

- adopting the same approach to letter formation as followed by the next settings the children attend.

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