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Our Reference EY376223

Dear Mr Christopher Michael Paul Foot

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Laura Brewer, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 16/01/2013. This visit follows on from your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of the visit

As a result of our inspection on 16/10/2012, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

This notice required you to: implement an effective, clear and well-understood policy, and procedures, for assessing any risks to children's safety, and review risk assessments regularly in order to: a) minimise the risk of injury to all people on the stairwells; b) minimise the risk of the front door being left open; c) ensure that hazardous chemicals such as cleaning products are not stored at child level; and to improve the arrangements for the supervision of all staff to provide support, coaching and training in order to: a) develop all staffs' understanding of effective learning; b) develop all staffs' understanding of the areas of development most relevant for the children they are caring for; c) develop all staffs' understanding of on-going assessment to plan for next stages in children's learning.

In addition a notice to improve was issued which required you to: take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency by: a) minimising the risk of people being trapped in rooms in the event of an emergency evacuation; b) ensuring doors leading to dangerous areas are not incorrectly marked as fire exits; organise premises and equipment in a way that meets the needs of all children by: a) providing space for children in the pre-school room to relax or play quietly; b) helping children concentrate by limiting noise, and making spaces calm and orderly; develop the educational programme for personal, social and emotional development by: a) modelling ways of noticing how others are feeling and comforting them; b) planning activities and other resources to reflect family and other special people; c) involving

all children in welcoming and caring for one another and ensure that children are adequately supervised and deploy staff to ensure children's needs are met by: a) ensuring that there is at least one member of staff for every three children, under the age of one at all times and; b) ensuring that there is at least one member of staff for every four children aged two at all times.

A monitoring visit was conducted on 13 November 2012. Through documentation used at the setting and through discussion and observation at the monitoring visit the provider demonstrated satisfactory progress in meeting the issues raised in the welfare requirement notice and notice of action to improve which were due for completion on 9 November 2012 and was making progress towards meeting the welfare requirement notice and notice to improve where the dates for completion had not yet been reached.

A further monitoring visit was conducted on 16 January 2013 to check the welfare requirements notice and notice to improve which were due for completion by 11 January 2013 and to ensure that the provider has the capacity to sustain improvement. Through discussion, observation and checking of relevant documentation the provider demonstrated that these notices had been met. In addition, it was found that the improvements that had taken place within the setting were being sustained to a satisfactory standard. The provider is now ready for a full inspection.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that at this time the setting is making satisfactory improvement overall.

Overall effectiveness of the improvement and outcomes for children

Overall the provider has made satisfactory progress. The settings improvement plan has addressed the areas requiring development and these have been effectively implemented. The notices have been met and all the requirements raised at inspection have been implemented. The provider has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the improvements and has included the staff team in making the required changes to promote good outcomes for children.

The provider continues to ensure that risk assessments are reviewed and updated to provide a safe and secure environment for children. Staff are actively involved in the risk assessment process and have developed awareness of their roles and responsibilities within this area.

Improvements to the organisation of the pre-school and toddler room which were observed at the last monitoring visit continue to be maintained. Designated activity areas create an environment where children have opportunities to initiate their own play and learning, supported by staff. Children were observed to be occupied with a range of activities and staff were seen to be engaging appropriately with children in

a supportive manner. The children were observed to be enjoying using the newly developed quiet area to look at books in a relaxed atmosphere. The building works that are currently being completed will in the future provide designated rooms for each individual age group.

The Educational Programme for Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) within the nursery has been developed and is now effectively planned for. This includes reinstating a 'family tree' which holds photographs of the children and their families. In addition, the children also now have their own family book which is individual to them. These books are displayed so that they are easily accessible to children and they enjoy locating their book and looking through them to identify pictures of their family members and initiating discussions about their home life.

More opportunities are provided for children to explore their feelings as 'emotional lines' have been installed in the preschool and toddler room. These are lines with pictures of faces expressing a wide range of different emotions for children to relate to. Staff use these to help children explain their emotions and how they are feeling. Younger less verbal children have really benefited from this as the visual prompts help them to express themselves. Staff now focus more on the welcome session to promote children's self esteem and confidence. A 'travelling teddy bear' has been introduced where children have the opportunity to take the teddy home and then share their experience with their group during circle time.

The provider has sustained improvements made at the last monitoring visit with regard to staffing arrangements and the re-organisation of the day. The staffing ratios are being maintained to ensure children receive appropriate support throughout the day. Suitable arrangements are in place to provide cover staff when required, ensuring that the ratios are not compromised.

Regular supervision meetings with each member of staff have been established and all staff have their own identified improvement plan to address any development needs. Additionally, staff work as a team to develop improvement plans for their designated rooms. This enables staff to reflect on their practises and how they can work together to best support the children.

The commitment to staff development is continuing. An on-going training plan is in place and a number of training workshops have been completed to develop staffs understanding of the EYFS and the Learning and Development requirements. The manager demonstrates a commitment to sustaining the improvements made and has systems in place to quality check staffs work to ensure they understand the stages that children are at to plan for their next steps for learning. The introduction of new assessment records and tracking systems have benefited children as staff now have much clearer information to monitor children's progress to inform their future learning and plan for their individual needs.

Next steps

Having considered all the evidence the inspector is of the opinion that at this time:

- The setting has made satisfactory improvement. The next visit will be a full inspection.

I hope that you have found the visit helpful in promoting improvement in your setting. If you have any further queries please contact us on the number at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Susan Gregory HMI
National Director, Inspection Delivery