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Apple Tree Day Nursery  
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Our Reference EY304453

Dear Mrs Charlotte Marie Sampson

### **Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate**

An Ofsted inspector, Michael Dwyer, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 11/07/2013. 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 21/03/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

In order to ensure that children are kept safe you were issued with a welfare requirements notice. This notice required you to 'ensure that premises, including outdoor spaces are secure, fit for purpose and that spaces, furniture, equipment and toys, are safe for children to use', 'ensure risk assessments identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised', and 'improve systems to ensure that practitioners/ anybody who is likely to have regular contact with children are suitable; ensure they are told to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings which may affect their suitability to work with children; make sure recorded information about staff vetting processes include the date a criminal records disclosure was obtained.' You demonstrated that you had met this notice during the monitoring visit of 14 June 2013. Risk assessments were now robust and you had a system in place whereby you monitored how staff assessed and removed risks to children. You had ensured that spaces, furniture, equipment and toys, are safe for children to use, including removing the dangerous items identified during the inspection and securing a cable to a wall. You also now had robust systems in place to ensure that members of staff are suitable to work with children, including recording dates that background checks on staff were undertaken, and by specifically listing the circumstances that you required members of staff to disclose to you, and requiring staff to sign to confirm that they understood this requirement.

A monitoring visit was also conducted on 11 July 2013, to consider the outstanding actions. You demonstrated that you had a good understanding of the Learning and Development requirements and now planned a mixture of activities led by adults and by children. You had also altered the layout of the premises to allow children better opportunities for outdoor and active play. You demonstrated that you were considering the individual needs of children and were using this to plan challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child. You were ensuring that members of staff paid attention to what babies showed an interest in and used this information. You also now had systems in place to ensure that information was shared with other childcare providers where children were accessing another service.

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**

Following the monitoring visits and having considered all of the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that at this time your setting is making satisfactory improvement overall. You have taken good steps to ensure that risk assessments are robust and performed robustly by members of staff. You have removed the risks identified at the inspection and redeveloped what had been the sensory house.

You now have a significantly improved your systems for ensuring that staff are suitable for their roles. Dates are recorded of when background checks have last been completed, and members of staff are now given a list of specific circumstances that they are required to notify management of.

You are receiving support from your local Early Years team and you have sought out additional information regarding how to implement the Learning and Development requirements. As a result, you are now able to demonstrate that you make suitable judgements about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults, taking into account young children's need to be active. You have changed the layout of parts of the premises so that one room has access to an outdoor space and free-flow is more easily manageable. You had also considered the individual needs of each child and were planning a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child, giving particular attention to what babies show you they are interested in and want to do.

You demonstrated that you were clear that all staff involved in preparing and handling food were aware of what you expected of them, and that there were suitable hand washing and drying arrangements.

You now have a clear system in place to enable a two-way flow of information between providers when a child is attending more than one setting.

## **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