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Stepping Stones Private Day Nursery
20 Claremount Road
Boothtown
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX3 6JQ

Our Reference 303706

Dear Mr David Charles Marsden

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Ann Law, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 10/10/2013. 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 04/09/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

The welfare requirements notice required you to:

assign a key person to each child who ensures that their learning and care, particularly during settling-in periods, is tailored to meet their individual needs

You were also sent a notice to improve which asked you to:

ensure risk assessments are sufficient to identify all hazards that might cause harm to children and how these will be addressed

ensure children's individual needs and stage of development are considered, and use this information to plan a range of challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child to promote their learning and development

ensure that practitioners complete the progress check at age two, and ensure any child whose progress in the prime areas of learning gives cause for concern is given sufficient support within the nursery; practitioners must discuss children's progress with parents and help them access specialist support or other agencies as appropriate

ensure hygiene procedures are rigorous enough to prevent the spread of infection

ensure that all staff receive induction training to help them understand their roles and responsibilities; this must include information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection, the provider's equality policy, and health and safety issues

record information about staff qualifications and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed, including the Disclosure and Barring Service Check, reference number, the date a disclosure was obtained and details of who obtained it

At the monitoring visit of 10 October 2013 a further welfare requirements notice was raised which requires you to:

ensure hygiene procedures are rigorous enough to prevent the spread of infection, particularly ensuring there are sufficient requisites such as paper towels and face cloths

record information about staff qualifications and the identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed, including the Disclosure and Barring Service Check, reference number, the date a disclosure was obtained and details of who obtained it, for all persons working or volunteering on the premises

Also, a further notice to improve which asks you to:

use the information obtained from observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles

ensure children's individual needs and stage of development are considered when planning a range of challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child to promote their learning and development.

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

To comply with the requirements of the EYFS the registered person must take the following action by the specified date:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • implement effective systems to ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with, children is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) | 31/10/2013 |
| • implement effective systems to ensure that any person | 31/10/2013 |

caring for, or in regular contact with, children is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

- ensure children's individual needs and stage of development are considered when planning a range of challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child to promote their learning and development 31/12/2013
- use the information obtained from observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles 31/12/2013

Overall effectiveness of the improvement and outcomes for children

A monitoring visit was carried out on 10 October 2013. The provider has taken immediate action to ensure that the hazards identified at the inspection have been risk assessed and any risk to children from the fixtures and fittings have been removed. Sticking gates and bolts have been adjusted to ensure they work properly and an oven in the pre-school room is no longer used. These measures contribute to keeping children safe on the premises.

The organisation of meal times does not meet the needs of the younger children. Their stage of development has not been considered and some children are sitting at the tables for over an hour with little positive interaction from staff. Some children become restless and their behaviour deteriorates as they wait far too long to get their food.

Hygiene is poor as there are insufficient necessary items; there are no paper towels and not enough individual facecloths for all the children. This means some children share a hand towel that, by the end of hand washing, is too wet to adequately dry their hands and some children do not have their faces washed after lunch leaving food residue on their faces.

Two-year progress checks have been undertaken, although the majority of which are yet to be shared with parents. Where concerns have been identified in children's development in the prime areas, parents and other professionals are involved in targeting plans to support children's future learning.

Whilst all current staff have received induction training, systems are still not robust enough to ensure that all necessary information is recorded about staff identity checks and the vetting processes that have been completed including a disclosure and barring service check for all staff, volunteers and students working with the children.

All children have now been assigned a key person, although the parents spoken to at the monitoring visit were unaware who that person is. Handovers between staff and parents were observed to not be undertaken by the children's key persons, but they were friendly and informative and parents spoken to by the inspector did not have

any concerns about the level of information they receive.

Regular observations are undertaken of children, but the information obtained is not assessed to identify their interests or their stage of development. There is a pro forma in children's files to record 'Individual next steps and interest' and to show how these have been planned for, but the system has yet to be implemented. A new system of tracking children's progress was introduced in May 2013, but this has not been updated since to identify if children have made progress in their learning and development.

Practitioners do not consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development of all the children when providing activities for them. For example, conkers are used in a highly inappropriate and dangerous way with the younger children. They were handed out randomly to a large group on the carpet in an uncontrolled way. The children had just been sitting at the lunch tables for over an hour and were not in the right frame of mind to undertake an activity to explore and describe the conkers. After the activity, the conkers were not all collected in and this left very young children at risk of finding one. The manager has undertaken some supervision of staff following the last inspection and is aware that inappropriate activities are taking place in the nursery. She intends to provide intensive support for staff, but has not done so yet.

Overall, the setting has made inadequate progress in meeting the actions raised at the inspection. Further action has been raised. The next visit will be a monitoring visit.

Next steps

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

- The setting has made inadequate progress in addressing the points for improvement. The next visit will be a further monitoring visit.

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

For the attention of: Compliance, Investigation and Enforcement Team.

Reply slip

Name and Address of setting:

Stepping Stones Private Day Nursery
 20 Claremount Road
 Boothtown
 Halifax
 West Yorkshire
 HX3 6JQ

ACTIONS

Please complete the box below to show what you have done in order to meet the action required:

Action Required	Action Taken	Date Completed
implement effective systems to ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with, children is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)		
implement effective systems to ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with, children is suitable to work with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and		

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Barring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)		
ensure children's individual needs and stage of development are considered when planning a range of challenging and enjoyable experiences for each child to promote their learning and development		
use the information obtained from observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles		

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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