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One Step Ahead
Nevendon Playcentre
Nevendon Road
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Our Reference EY236469

Dear Mrs Donna Jane Doyle

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Cheryl Langley, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 09/09/2013. 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 26/06/2013, we sent you a welfare requirements notice.

This Welfare Requirement Notice required you to ensure children are adequately supervised at all times; particularly in relation to when children move in and out of the foyer area and the outside area, Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements (EYFS) Staff: child ratio 3.27. This requirement was to be met by 6 September 2013.

You were also sent a Notice to improve which required you to: update the safeguarding policy to include the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting (EYFS Child protection 3.4); ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for the supervision of staff (EYFS Staff qualifications, training, support and skills 3.19); notify Ofsted as soon as reasonably practicable of any significant event that is likely to affect the suitability of the early years provider (EYFS Changes that must be notified to Ofsted 3.76). These actions were to be met by the 6 September 2013.

Also included in this Notice to improve were two actions which required you to: improve staff's knowledge and understanding of how to promote the learning and development of young children to ensure all children make on-going progress (EYFS Learning and Development 1), and improve the educational and assessment programmes to include the seven areas of learning and on-going formative assessment to clearly track children's developmental progress (EYFS Learning and Development 2). These actions are to be met by 4 November 2013.

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

At the monitoring visit on 9 September 2013, steps have been taken to make sure children are safe as they move between the inside and outside area and the foyer area. Staff are deployed effectively to supervise these areas at all times. Children only access the inside and outside area when accompanied by adults as part of a group activity. Staff are aware of their responsibilities with regard to supervising the children and keeping them within sight and hearing. Children are counted in and out of the building and this is recorded on a white board to register and check the numbers of children in and out.

All staff have agreed to the mobile phone and camera policy to keep children safe and respect confidentiality. The use of mobile phones is not permitted whilst children are being cared for and they are locked away during session times. Regular staff meetings and an appraisal system are used to address any issues that arise and to improve staff's personal effectiveness through training. Ofsted are notified of any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the early years provider or any person who cares for children on the premises.

The leadership and management team, along with their staff, are working closely with the local authority to improve their practice to promote the learning and development of children across the seven areas of learning. During the monitoring visit children were encouraged to be independent and develop confidence and physical skills: they used a knife to spread butter on crackers, enjoyed playing musical instruments, made marks with pencils and manoeuvred small trains along a track. Staff were calm and attentive. New and settling children were made to feel welcome, well supported and soon appeared comfortable and able to take part in the activities. Praise was used purposefully to promote children's confidence and self-esteem. Children appeared happy and engaged in play. Positive relationships provided a calm and friendly environment for children returning to start the new term. A further monitoring visit will be carried out to check those actions to be met by 4 November 2013 and to make sure the improvements that have been made are maintained.

Next steps

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

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

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