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Clarendon Nursery
Garston Old Road
Liverpool
L19 9AF

Our Reference EY435216

Dear Mrs Karen Margaret Donnelly

Outcome of monitoring visit for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Joan Isabel Madden, carried out a monitoring visit of your provision on 05/11/2013. 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 03/01/2013, we sent you a notice to improve.

The notice to improve asked the provider to: ensure that a daily record of the hours children attend is kept and that it includes every child present; ensure there is always a member of staff on duty, who holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification; ensure staff and managers understand their roles and responsibilities by providing induction training and regular appraisals; make use of on-going observation and assessment of each child's progress against all seven areas of learning; taking account of their starting points, age and stage of development and use this information to identify the next steps in their learning; provide an action plan which identifies how effective systems to ensure that the individual needs of all the children are met. In this instance, the arrangements for the organisation and the management monitoring of plans for improvement.

Since the inspection Ofsted have carried out four monitoring visits on 9th April 2013, 3 June 2013, 28 August 2013 and 5 November 2013 that have resulted in revised actions and the raising of welfare requirement notices. The inspector is of the opinion that at this time the setting is making good improvement overall.

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

Overall effectiveness of the improvement and outcomes for children

At the most recent monitoring visit on 5 November 2013 the inspector reviewed the three actions that were set at the monitoring visit on 28 August 2013.

The inspector reviewed the system for identifying children's starting points and whether they are in line with the seven areas of learning to make them more meaningful and effective in planning the next steps. It was found the staff are becoming more familiar with age-related expectations and matching their achievements to the specific areas of learning. Children's starting points are now recorded under the seven areas of learning. This has led to more meaningful initial assessments enabling staff to effectively identify the children's starting points.

The inspector reviewed the system for tracking children's progress to establish if it is routinely and comprehensively maintained to accurately identify the next learning steps in each area of learning. It was found the staff are becoming more confident and knowledgeable in tracking the children's progress, helping them to work towards a more consistent approach to the summative and formative assessment processes. Staff are continuing with summative assessments to ensure the children's progress is regularly monitored. They make regular observations on their key children over a six week period along with planned observations. Staff now evaluate these observations at the end of the six week period to identify their achievements and produce a mini assessment of each child which is added to the child's learning journal. From these the children's next steps are identified for the next six weeks. The staff are also focussing on developing and improving the formative two-year-check. They are using 'Every Child A Talker' (ECAT) monitoring tool to contribute towards the statutory assessment. The setting aims to have completed the assessments within six weeks of the individual child's second birthday.

The inspector reviewed how the setting will ensure a quality learning experience is sustained for children particularly with reference to having skilled leadership and management at all times. The setting continues to receive regular support from the Quality Improvement Officer for Liverpool and she plans to continue to work with setting. Staff are demonstrating a greater understanding of the assessment and planning processes to support children's learning and development. The manager will continue to evaluate the setting in terms of current provision against the requirements of the Early Years' Framework including learning and development. She has attended cluster group meetings. The acting managers will ensure they are updated on all policies and procedures to implement in manager's absence.

In the main the setting has continued to make progress since the last monitoring visit particularly with regard to the assessments of the children.

Next steps

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

- The setting has made good 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