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St Marks Christian Centre
St. Marks Church
St. Marks Road
Chester
Cheshire
CH4 8DE

Our Reference 305325

Dear Mrs Maya Onions

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Dianne Andrews, monitored your provision on 06/02/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 07/11/2013, we sent you a notice to improve. The actions you were set are included at the end of this letter.

During the monitoring visit the inspector discussed with your deputy manager the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She inspected the premises, observed the activities children were taking part in and observed the interaction between staff and children. She held discussions with individual members of staff and spoke to parents. The inspector also looked at the your observation, assessment and planning records, risk assessments, training records and documents to show how staff are supervised.

The inspector found that you have developed a clear and concise action plan to support improvement and address the issues raised at your last inspection. You have reviewed and are continuing to improve systems to evaluate the quality of practice of all staff working in the setting and the impact their teaching has on children's learning.

The inspector found that following your inspection you sought the advice of your local authority advisor. You arranged a bespoke training course, delivered by your advisor, to develop staff knowledge and understanding of the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage. As a result, staff have more confidence in the application of their observation, assessment and planning skills in order to plan for children's next steps in their learning. Staff now work as a team to plan activities which meet individual children's needs and interests. This means that children benefit from a more stimulating and challenging

educational programme.

You have also introduced effective systems to monitor staff knowledge through on-going discussions at supervision sessions, which now take place every six weeks. In addition the management team are making observations of practice to help inform and sustain improvements. These actions have led to significant improvements in the teaching and learning for children. Although there are some staff members who are either new to the setting or could not access the training due to illness, they demonstrate that they are developing their knowledge. It was confirmed that an alternative training session has been arranged to ensure consistency of practice across the staff team.

The inspector found that effective action has been taken, in collaboration with the landlord, to promote children's safety by assessing and minimising the risks identified. Alarms have been fitted on the through doors, which lead to the adjacent church and also on the fire exit door to alert staff if anyone enters or leaves the room. A fastening has also been fitted to the store room, to prevent entry to this room by children. Staffs' belongings are stored there so that children cannot gain access to them.

In addition to the action taken to address the notice to improve you have also taken action to address the recommendations raised at the last inspection. The inspector observed that staff are now offering opportunities for children to develop independence within the daily routines. The inspector observed that children were helping to set the table and were serving themselves drinks. Children's self-care skills were also being promoted as children were accessing tissues to use when they needed them and were able to access drinking water at all times during the session.

The inspector also found that the indoor and outdoor environments had been developed to provide opportunities for children to see and reflect on written words and text. Displays had been labelled effectively and low-level signage was visible around the setting. These opportunities were being used to promote children's communication and language. For instance, children found their name with the help of their parent as they entered the setting and were beginning to put meaning to the written word.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the setting has taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

The next step will be a full inspection.

Our Reference 305325

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

Nick Hudson
National Director, Early Education

Actions

Action	Due date	Closed date
use information obtained from observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. Shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations to help children make the best possible progress in their learning and development	06/02/2014	06/02/2014
review the risk assessment of indoor spaces to ensure that children's safety is not compromised. This is with particular reference to; gaining access to other parts of the building and the storage of staff and visitors handbags	06/02/2014	06/02/2014
develop appropriate supervision of staff to provide support, coaching and training in order to ensure that staff make accurate assessments of children's development to plan the next steps in their learning	06/02/2014	06/02/2014
develop the educational programme to provide consistent, interesting and challenging experiences by; improving the effective teaching strategies to promote children's learning.	06/02/2014	06/02/2014