

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231
Fax: 0300 123 3159
Minicom: 0161 618 8524
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk



Safehands Green Start Nursery
Victoria Road Primary School
Victoria Road
NORTHWICH
Cheshire
CW9 5RE

Our Reference EY440887

Dear Mrs Kathryn Emma Martin

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Christine Armstrong, monitored your provision on 18/02/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 20/11/2013, 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 you the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed interaction between staff and children throughout the nursery. The inspector also spoke to your area manager, manager and a representative from the local authority. She also spoke to staff in the nursery. She looked at your risk assessments, the learning environment for children aged two to five years, the observation, assessment and planning systems, self-evaluation and monitoring processes.

The inspector found that you have developed an action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection and have introduced systems that are helping you to evaluate the quality of practice and the impact this has on the outcomes for children. This is enabling you to continue to identify how to address the areas for improvement identified at your last inspection and to plan for ongoing improvement.

You have welcomed support from your local authority and you have used their guidance to successfully develop the environment and resources indoors and outdoors to provide purposeful learning opportunities for children. High quality furniture and resources have been obtained and used to re-organise the room into learning zones. Staff have received training in how to develop the learning environment and how to support children's self-initiated play. As a result, staff have worked together to re-organise the room and monitor the impact on children's learning. Each member of staff now has responsibility to continually monitor and

review a specific learning zone, which is supporting continual and sustained improvement in this area. Consequently, this has had a significant positive effect on the quality of learning opportunities provided to children aged two to five years. Children are able to initiate their own play and follow their own interests using a variety of stimulating resources that cover all areas of learning. All staff have undertaken risk assessment training. Robust procedures have been put into place to ensure the effective implementation of risk assessments. Key staff have identified roles for monitoring this and ensuring children play in a safe environment.

You have been successful in improving the balance of adult-led opportunities. You have introduced a daily timetable that is focused on guiding staff to initiate learning opportunities and staff have received training to support them in implementing this. As a result, children are supported to take an active role in tidying away and taking care of their environment. Children also take part in adult-led small and large discussion and activity groups, which is helping to provide more appropriate challenges for children so that they can make better progress.

Staff are receiving ongoing training to implement a new system of observations, assessments and planning to support the individual next steps in learning and interests of every child. You are closely monitoring individual staff in order to enhance their performance. You are aware this area requires your full attention to ensure the new systems improve the quality and consistency of ongoing assessment and individual planning for each child. In order to do this you are continuing to seek support and guidance from the local authority. You are holding regular meetings with the nursery manager and deputy and continually developing the strategies you are using to monitor and develop staff performance in this area.

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.

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
develop planning to support the individual next steps in learning and interests for every child, ensuring a balance of child-initiated and adult-led opportunities that challenge children appropriately	18/02/2014	
improve the quality and consistency of ongoing assessments to ensure that all children are being regularly observed, assessed and monitored and the information is used to support their further learning and development	18/02/2014	
ensure that risk assessments in place are carried out thoroughly to ensure children's safety at all times. For example, ensuring that the outdoor climbing frame is dry and has safety mats around it.	18/02/2014	18/02/2014