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St Michael's Playgroup
St Johns Ambulance Rooms
Milner Road
Finedon
Northamptonshire
NN9 5LW

Our Reference 220282

Dear St Michael's Playgroup Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Jan Burnet, monitored your provision on 04/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 15/01/2014, 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 discussed with you, and observed, how potential risks are managed, staff deployment, staff supervision of children, assessment of learning and planning. The inspector observed staff working with the children and spoke to a representative from the local authority.

The inspector found that safety measures have been improved with the reorganisation of the play activities and so there is now free space around the heater and the guard that surrounds it. The inspector found that you have minimised the risk to children's safety by ensuring that flammable items are no longer placed on top of the fireguard. Information on accidents is now consistently shared with parents because this is now the responsibility of one staff member and all parents sign accident records. Staff are aware of significant incidents or events that must be notified to Ofsted. In order to improve teaching skills and address professional development, supervision meetings have been planned on a monthly basis and annual appraisals have just been completed.

Effective steps have been taken to re-organise the provision and improve staff deployment in order to meet children's care and learning needs more effectively. Targets have been set by the representative of the local authority and her support is valued. All staff have attended training on interaction with children, learning in the outdoor environment and measuring children's progress. The inspector found that

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the re-organisation of the playroom has been successful in promoting children's learning. Observation and planning has improved, but is not yet fully effective and next steps planning is not yet embedded in practice.

During the monitoring visit the interaction between staff and children was positive and children were happily involved in a range of activities. They enjoyed flexible use of indoor and outdoor play space. Staff were deployed effectively.

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
improve the quality of teaching and ensure assessment is consistently used to inform the planning of activities in order to provide all children with challenging activities that are fully matched to their learning needs, and therefore, help them to make best progress	28/02/2014	04/04/2014
ensure staff deployment and the organisation of the provision meets the needs of the children at all times	31/01/2014	04/04/2014
ensure resources are effectively used to support children's learning and development, and therefore, help them to make best progress	31/01/2014	04/04/2014
ensure potential fire hazards are removed; this refers to the flammable items placed on top of the fireguard, which surrounds a powerful heater	15/01/2014	04/04/2014
ensure parents are informed of any accident or injury sustained to their child	15/01/2014	04/04/2014
develop knowledge and understanding of what should be notified to Ofsted, in particular changes to the nominated individual of the committee and all associated committee members	15/01/2014	04/04/2014
ensure all members of staff receive regular supervision and appraisals in order to improve their teaching skills and professional development.	31/01/2014	04/04/2014