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Witton Acorns
WITTON CHURCH WALK C OF E
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Church Walk
Northwich
CW9 5QQ

Our Reference EY466265

Dear Witton Acorn Limited

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Patricia Webb, monitored your provision on 25/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 13/01/2014, 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 observed practice and had a discussion with the nominated person/manager and staff. She discussed your plan of action, looked at planning processes and the implementation of the key person system. She also looked at the developmental records for children in the early years age range. The inspector also spoke with children in the setting and had brief conversations with some parents. The inspector was not able to speak with a representative from the local authority as you have not yet accessed support from the Early Years advisors.

The inspector found that you have not yet addressed the action regarding the systems for maintaining staff records. Although you state that lockable storage on site is being arranged this is not yet in place. Due to your concern about confidentiality and security of records, there is no information on site for inspection to verify staff suitability clearances, qualifications and training. This means that children's safety cannot be fully assured.

Action has been taken to appoint staff as key persons for the children in the early years age range. A list of the key persons and their assigned children is displayed on the wall and parents have received information about this system explaining the role of the key person in supporting their children. You state that staff have the necessary qualifications and skills to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage with

young children. Staff are now liaising more effectively with staff in the school to promote a consistent approach to complement children's early learning and development. Records of children's progress indicate that the areas of learning and development are covered over time and that next steps are being referred to by staff.

The planning of activities is improving. Staff are aware of the leisure aspect to the setting and give children opportunities to contribute their ideas and interests to the planning in order to maximise their enjoyment and active participation. For example, some children were very interested in a favourite film seen during the school holidays. They have developed and designed their own characters and are linking the action in the story to developing their own health and fitness. Parents say that their children enjoy attending the club and often express disappointment when they arrive to collect them.

The systems for managing the performance of staff are being developed and you are aware of the process being an on-going element of management and improvement. Staff have regular supervision and appraisals are being carried out presently. These are beginning to identify staff training needs and interests. You are arranging updated training for some staff in a timely manner to ensure that their knowledge and understanding of their roles is current. Further interests expressed by staff, such as broadening their knowledge of working with children who may have special educational needs and/or disabilities, is being acknowledged. You are seeking to identify relevant courses to address this and widen the skill base of staff to improve outcomes for children.

However, the issue of the staff records and vetting information not being available remains an area for concern with regard to fully assuring children's safety and welfare.

Having considered all the evidence, the inspector is of the opinion that the setting has not taken prompt and effective action to address the points for improvement.

Next steps

The next step will be a full inspection.

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 play and learning experiences for younger children by: using the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage to guide and support their learning and development, particularly in the prime areas; planning a broad range of challenging activities that complement their learning in school and limiting the use of the television	27/01/2014	25/04/2014
improve the key person system by: liaising more closely with parents and teachers to ensure key persons have a secure understanding of children's needs and interests; providing parents with information about the name of their child's key person and explaining their role	27/01/2014	25/04/2014
improve systems for maintaining staff records by: recording information about staff qualifications, first aid training, identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed, including details about Disclosure and Barring Service checks; making sure records are easily accessible and available	27/01/2014	25/04/2014
develop systems for performance management by providing staff with regular opportunities for supervision, coaching and training, in order to improve their teaching skills.	27/01/2014	25/04/2014
ensure there are effective systems to confirm any person caring for children is suitable to work with children, which must include an enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	27/01/2014	25/04/2014
ensure there are effective systems to confirm any person caring for children is suitable to work with children, which must include an enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	27/01/2014	25/04/2014

ensure that the systems for confirming staff qualifications, first aid training, identity checks and vetting processes that have been completed, including details about Disclosure and Barring Service checks are effective and that the relevant records are easily accessible and available for inspection. 25/04/2014

ensure there are effective systems to confirm any person caring for children is suitable to work with children, which must include an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register). 25/04/2014

ensure there are effective systems to confirm any person caring for children is suitable to work with children, which must include an enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 25/04/2014