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Finlay Early Education Centre
Finlay Childrens Centre
Tredworth Road
GLOUCESTER
GL4 6TL

Our Reference EY463861

Dear 4 Children

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Linda Witts, monitored your provision on 22/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 14/01/2014, 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 the manager/senior practitioner, and also the newly appointed cluster manager, the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed staff interaction with the children and spoke to your local authority development worker who attended the visit. The inspector reviewed your security measures, risk assessments, suitability checks, action plan, looked at displays for parents, and reports from the local authority support visits. She also observed the play environment, organisation and presentation of resources. The inspector investigated concerns about safeguarding practice that were raised following notification of an allegation against an individual caring for the children.

The inspector found that you have developed a clear action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection. However, you have struggled to make sufficient improvement. This is primarily due to staffing problems that have become an ongoing issue. The investigation found that the notification means that legal responsibilities to report such matters were met. However, it is evident that the setting's safeguarding procedures were not implemented and therefore children's welfare was compromised.

The inspector found that the premises are secure. External gates are fitted with bolts, and signs remind parents to secure them on entry and exit. Door release buttons have been relocated to a higher level and parents have been asked not to assist children to use these. The manager has relocated the signing-in register to the

end of the corridor to reduce the number of people in the entrance area so that it is easier to monitor children's movements. Children were observed to be closely supervised. Some positive steps have been taken to allocate key persons and buddies to support children, however, in practice the staffing issues mean that this system is not functioning successfully. This affects the support children receive and how well care and activities are tailored to children's individual needs. There is currently no trained special educational needs co-ordinator on site to ensure that children receive the professional support they need to aid their development.

You have actively welcomed support from your local authority development worker who reports that you demonstrate a commitment to improvement. You have worked together to target areas for improvement but, again, the staffing issues have had a significant detrimental impact on how much improvement has been achieved. Recruitment is currently taking place and, when the reliance on temporary staff is reduced, your aim is to move forward with the action plan in relation to improving the uninspiring learning environment, along with reviewing the system of observation, assessment and planning.

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
strengthen the key person system through use of a buddy so that every child's care is tailored to meet their needs	31/05/2014	
ensure that safeguarding procedures are implemented effectively in the event of an allegation against a member of staff and that the allegation is reported to agencies with statutory responsibility without delay	22/04/2014	
appoint a suitably trained special educational needs coordinator to ensure that children receive the necessary support to help them to progress in their learning and development.	31/05/2014	