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Graveley Pre-School
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Hitchin
SG4 7LE

Our Reference EY465365

Dear Mini Makers Pre-School Partnership

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Linda Cass, monitored your provision on 29/04/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 26/02/2014, we sent you a welfare requirements notice. The actions you were set are included at the end of this letter.

The welfare requirement notice required you to address the following:

ensure a written policy, and procedures, to safeguard children is in place. This should be in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board. The safeguarding policy and procedures must include an explanation of the action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, and cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting; identify a designated person to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in the setting, who has undertaken a child protection training course that enables them to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect; implement a robust procedure for the recruitment of staff including Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

At the monitoring visit on 29 April 2014, you were able to demonstrate that you have taken action to meet these requirements. A written policy, and procedures, to safeguard children is in place which is in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant Local Safeguarding Children Board. The safeguarding policy and procedures include an explanation of the action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff, and cover the use of mobile phones and cameras in the setting. You are the designated person to take lead responsibility for safeguarding children in the setting and you have undertaken a child protection training course that enables you to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of possible abuse and neglect. Both you and your deputy

demonstrate a sound knowledge of child protection issues and know how to report concerns to the relevant agency. You have implemented a robust procedure for the recruitment of staff. You have implemented an effective systems to ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with, children are suitable to work with children by obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Some action has been taken to meet the notices to improve. However, inadequate progress has been made overall. You have requested the support of the Local Authority to provide you with training and to assist you in meeting the actions. Formal performance management systems are not in place to improve the monitoring and supervision of staff. You have informal discussions with your staff. You have ensured opportunities for them to receive support, coaching and training to improve practice by arranging training via the Local Authority. The implementation of supervision and appraisal records will be monitored at the next visit. The Local Authority is providing training to you and your staff to ensure you have an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning, development and assessment requirements. Your understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning, development and assessment requirements remains inadequate and completion of this action will be monitored at the next inspection.

All staff involved in preparing and handling food have received training in food hygiene. The outdoor play equipment has been cleaned. The arrangements for nappy changing is now more hygienic as the changing mat is not placed directly onto the toilet floor.

The provision for the youngest children, focusing strongly on the prime areas of learning is not yet embedded. Activities do not always ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning because you do not ensure a wide variety of interesting and challenging activities are provided that sufficiently cover the seven areas of learning. Planned, purposeful play is not always provided through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. The key person has begun to ensure that every child's learning is tailored to meet their individual needs and information about what children know and can do at the start of the placement is in place. Precise on-going assessment is currently not undertaken as an integral part of the learning and development process in order to understand children's level of achievement and shape learning experiences for each child. Training is in progress and the success in meeting these actions will be monitored at the next inspection.

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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 further monitoring.

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
make sure the key person ensures that every child's learning is tailored to meet their individual needs, in particular, seek information about what children know and can do at the start of the placement	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
implement an effective systems to ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with, children is suitable to work with children which must include obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service checks (Compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
ensure that precise ongoing assessment is undertaken as an integral part of the learning and development process in order to, understand children's level of achievement and shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations.	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
implement an effective systems to ensure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with, children is suitable to work with children which must include obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service checks (Voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
keep and implement a written statement of procedures to be followed for the protection of children, intended to safeguard the children being cared for from abuse or neglect (Voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
ensure that effective performance management systems are in place to improve the monitoring and supervision of staff who have contact with children	15/04/2014	09/05/2014

and families; providing opportunities for them to receive support, coaching and training to improve practice and shape their professional development

ensure that practitioners have appropriate training, skills and knowledge, and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, with particular regard to their knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning, development and assessment requirements	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
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make sure that all staff involved in preparing and handling food have received training in food hygiene	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
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ensure that the premises are fit for purpose; this refers in particular to the cleanliness of the outdoor play equipment and the arrangements for nappy changing	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
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improve the provision for the youngest children by focusing strongly on the prime areas of learning	15/04/2014	09/05/2014
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ensure that precise ongoing assessment is undertaken as an integral part of the the learning and development process in order to, understand children's level of achievement and shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations.	15/07/2014
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ensure a wide variety of interesting and challenging activities are provided that sufficiently cover the seven areas of learning. Ensure planned, purposeful play is provided through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities.	15/07/2014
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ensure that effective performance management systems are in place to improve the monitoring and supervision of staff who have contact with children and families; providing opportunities for them to receive support, coaching and training to improve practice and shape their professional development	15/07/2014
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ensure that practitioners have appropriate training, skills and	15/07/2014
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knowledge, and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, with particular regard to their knowledge and understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage learning, development and assessment requirements