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Little Starz Childcare Ltd  
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Our Reference EY469403

Dear Little Starz Childcare Ltd

### **Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate**

An Ofsted inspector, Claire Jenner, monitored your provision on 03/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

### **Outcome of monitoring**

As a result of our inspection on 03/03/2014, 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 your manager the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed interaction between staff and children within the pre-school. The inspector also spoke to you, by telephone and individual members of staff. She asked to speak to a representative from the local authority, but they were unavailable at the time of the visit. The inspector looked at staff records and qualifications, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks. She also looked at your planning, observation and assessment documents, development plan and records for staff supervision.

The inspector found that with support from the local authority you have developed a clear action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection and have introduced systems to evaluate the quality of practice and the impact this has on outcomes for children. This has allowed you to identify how to address the areas for improvement found at your last inspection and to plan for ongoing improvement.

The quality of the outdoor area has been improved because a fixed fence is now in place, thus creating an enclosed area for children to play. In addition, you explained that following an organisational review, staff are now deployed more effectively. For example, a minimum of two members of staff are deployed outside. As a result, children now play in a safe and secure environment and are well supervised. Records confirming staff suitability, including qualifications, Disclosure and Barring Service checks were in place and available at the time of the visit. In addition, provision has been made to give staff time to keep up-to-date with children's developmental files

on site. This contributes to ensuring children are appropriately safeguarded and meets the requirements of registration.

You have welcomed support from your local authority and acted upon their feedback and guidance. Managers and staff have been on a number of training courses to improve their knowledge and understanding. This has included training on, the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements. The inspector found that you have introduced appropriate systems to share this knowledge, which has had a positive impact on staff's confidence and improved their understanding. You explained how staff are now ensuring that observations of what children can do are accurate and that staff are using this information more effectively to plan for children's next steps. You stated that staff are spending more time engaging with children and working hard to improve the quality of teaching by asking more open-ended questions to extend children's learning. As a consequence, children are now making better progress. You explained how the delivery of large group activities has been adapted to ensure the length and content supports individual children's full engagement and participation. For example, children are now divided into smaller groups, dependent on their age and level of understanding. This has enabled staff to plan and pace 'carpet time' more effectively to their target group. At the time of the visit, children behaved well. You detailed how you have revisited the behaviour management procedures and staff are now implementing these successfully within the setting. As a result, children are learning how to play together in a calm and positive environment.

The inspector found that systems to ensure that staff receive formal supervision on an ongoing basis have been implemented. This includes peer observations, which help to identify gaps in teaching and therefore provide the necessary support and specific training for individual staff. In addition, staff are supported to attend training and strategies are in place to ensure that this is ongoing in order to continue to build on, staff's knowledge, understanding and confidence.

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
review the delivery of large group activities to ensure that they take into consideration the length and content to support each children's full engagement and participation	06/06/2014	03/06/2014
increase the performance management and monitoring systems further to ensure the quality of teaching is monitored and the information is used to enhance staff's professional development and confidence	06/06/2014	03/06/2014
improve the security of the outdoor area so that children are given an enclosed area to play that is safe and secure	01/08/2014	03/06/2014
ensure all records are easily accessible and available for inspection with reference to children's records and gain agreement from Ofsted to store records securely off the premises	06/06/2014	03/06/2014
improve deployment of staff so that children are effectively supervised at all times, to fully ensure each child is effectively supported and actively engaged in purposeful play experiences	06/06/2014	03/06/2014
ensure that behaviour management procedures are implemented consistently and effectively by all staff, to enable all children to learn how to play together appropriately and safely	04/07/2014	03/06/2014
improve the quality of teaching by ensuring staff have secure skills to interact, play and fully engage with the children. For example by asking open questions to extend children's learning and record next steps that are specific and used to inform planning	04/07/2014	03/06/2014