

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231
Fax: 0300 123 3159
Minicom: 0161 618 8524
Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
Web: www.ofsted.gov.uk



The Big Top Pre-School
(Buckingham Park)
Buckingham Park Community Centre
Jubilee Square
AYLESBURY
Buckinghamshire
HP19 9DZ

Our Reference EY457207

Dear Sylvia Anne Robinson

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Sheena Bankier, 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 06/03/2014, we sent you a notice to improve. If you were set actions at the inspection, or as a result of our subsequent monitoring or investigations, these are included at the end of this letter unless we have already verified that they have been completed.

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 viewed and discussed the action plan, policies and paperwork relating to children's health and medical needs. The inspector spoke to staff about the procedures to manage children's health and medical needs. In addition, the inspector viewed the records from the support visits from your local authority early years development team and spoke to a member of the team about your progress.

The inspector found that you have developed a clear action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection and that you have quickly implemented these plans. You have received support from your local authority early years development team, and have implemented the advice and guidance provided by them promptly. The representative from the local authority spoke positively about the progress you have made and reflected that you have been proactive in addressing the actions set.

The inspector found you have reviewed and updated procedures and policies to manage children's medical and health needs. You are obtaining information about children's health and medical needs, along with any medications they need, on entry

to the pre-school. You update this information regularly by asking parents to complete a form each term. Parents provide written consent to administer long-term and short-term medication to children. This meets the regulatory requirements for administering medications. There is clear information available to staff about children's individual medical and health needs, such as allergies. This includes photographs by the snack table of the children and any allergies they have to food. Each morning, you hold a staff discussion prior to the arrival of children, which identifies any children's individual health or medical needs that are relevant to activities and the snack provided. This raises the staff's knowledge and understanding of children's specific dietary needs and of any potential risks to them. You are planning the snack menu in advance, which enables you to take into account children's attendance patterns and their specific dietary needs and allergies. You have reviewed and updated risk assessments to include cooking activities and children's allergies. As a result, staff are able to identify any potential dangers to children to safeguard them. Discussions held with staff demonstrate they have a confident knowledge and understanding of procedures to manage children's health and medical needs.

Self-evaluation has developed to identify weaknesses and to promote improvements. You have identified further improvements required in addition to the actions and recommendations set at the inspection and have actively engaged in the support the early years development team has provided. As a result, you have made written action plans that identify areas for development. These are detailed with how these areas will be achieved, such as through training. All staff have been involved in identifying areas to develop and improve at the pre-school and parents have been asked for their feedback. You have reviewed and updated policies, risk assessments and induction procedures to improve practice.

Communication with parent has developed since the inspection. Staff gain more in-depth information from parents about their children's care and learning needs on entry to the pre-school. They are always available to speak to parents and ensure, in the event of incidents occurring to children, that they inform parents of these. Staff encourage parents to take an active part in their children's learning and development. This includes ideas for activities to try at home in relation to planned topics and information about how to support children's next steps in learning at home.

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