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YMCA Childcare - Middleton
Middleton School
Harrow Road
NOTTINGHAM
NG8 1FG

Our Reference EY468606

Dear Nottinghamshire YMCA

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Alex Brouder, monitored your provision on 04/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 05/03/2014, 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 the manager the steps your setting has taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She spoke on the telephone to the nominated person about the action plan and the support you have received from the local authority. The inspector observed interaction between staff and children in the provision and spoke with them at appropriate times. She observed children taking part in activities within the main play area. The inspector reviewed some of the records you have in place, such as accident records, observations made on children and staff records.

The inspector found that although an action plan has been drawn up and some guidance has been given by the local authority, the manager has not been involved in this process and is therefore not sufficiently well placed to drive improvement. However, the inspector did find that the manager has taken some appropriate steps to address some of the actions. For example, staff are now monitored and supported in their delivery of the curriculum and all staff have been given a copy of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are now offered regular meetings and discussion on how they can improve as individuals and how they can work as a team to improve the setting. Some training had been offered, such as safeguarding training, to support the needs of children at the setting. However, the inspector found that the minimum qualification requirements for staff

are not met. This is a breach of the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

The inspector found that records relating to staff qualifications, personal details and evidence of their Disclosure and Barring Service checks are accessible and on site. However, some records, such as induction, appraisal and recruitment records, including references, are not readily available for inspection. The manager states that this is an oversight, and that arrangements are in place to rectify this.

Risk assessment with regard to the spaces and equipment that children use to some extent ensure that they are safe and suitable. New chairs and tables have been ordered to ensure that younger children have access to furniture that is better matched to their needs. However, these are not yet in place. Accident records are maintained appropriately and show that parents are informed of any incident which occurs to children whilst in your care. In addition, registers of attendance show that children are signed in and out appropriately. The inspector found that the entrance to the setting is secure and that a lock has been applied to ensure that only known persons can enter. These changes help to promote children's safety and well-being.

The manager is the key person for all children within the early years age group. Observations are now used to reflect on how children play at the setting. The manager uses these to identify what children like to do, which she uses to plan the activities and resources that are on offer. However, the inspector found that staff knowledge and understanding of how children learn and develop is not fully secure. Staff know what children like to do at the setting but they acknowledge that although they have recently been given a copy of the Early Years Foundation Stage, they have not received training to help them gain a better understanding of how to meet the learning and development requirements. Despite this, staff to some extent are beginning to meet children's needs more appropriately. For example, they sit at the table during craft sessions, speak to children about what they are doing and offer suggestions and ideas. They help the children to build using construction toys and engage them in conversations to challenge their thinking and learning. Although some improvements have been made, this remains an area for improvement as staff continue to lack the knowledge and skills to fully support children's learning.

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
ensure all spaces and equipment used by children are fit for purpose and a rigorous programme of risk assessment is implemented to clearly identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked regularly and identify how any risk will be removed or minimised	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
monitor closely the quality of the provision to ensure that all practitioner receive a robust induction and sufficient support, coaching and training in order to have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and to ensure that the requirements of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage are consistently met	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure effective systems are in place to evidence the suitability of any person caring for, or in regular contact with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure effective systems are in place to evidence the suitability of any person caring for, or in regular contact with children, which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure records are easily accessible and available for inspection, with particular regard to practitioners qualifications, personal details and suitability checks	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure robustly written records of children's accidents are maintained and that parents are informed of such accidents	12/03/2014	04/06/2014

ensure a daily record of children's attendance is maintained and the name of each child's key person is recorded	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
allocate each child a key person and notify parents of who their child's key person is in order to strengthen the support for children's care and learning.	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure a daily record is maintained of children looked after and their hours of attendance (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure a daily record is maintained of children looked after and their hours of attendance (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure a record of the name, home address and telephone number of every person living or working on the premises on which the childcare is provided is maintained (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure a record of the name, home address and telephone number of every person living or working on the premises on which the childcare is provided is maintained (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purpose of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purpose of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure risk assessments are undertaken of the premises and equipment and take action to minimise identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	12/03/2014	04/06/2014
ensure risk assessments are undertaken	12/03/2014	04/06/2014

of the premises and equipment and take action to minimise identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).

ensure that at least half of the staff, other than the manager, hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification. 30/06/2014

ensure that at least half of all persons caring for children have successfully completed a qualification, at a minimum of level 2 in a relevant area of work.(compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 30/06/2014

monitor closely the quality of the provision to ensure that all practitioner receive sufficient support, coaching and training in order to have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and to ensure that the learning and development requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage are consistently met 04/07/2014