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Somerset Road Pre-School
Portswood Primary School
Somerset Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO17 3AA

Our Reference 131558

Dear Somerset Road Pre-School Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Elaine New, monitored your provision on 21/05/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 27/02/2014, we sent you a welfare requirements notice. 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.

To improve the quality of education and care for children you were required to: assess the risk to children's safety and identify how the risk will be removed or minimised; this is with particular regard to the school's environmental area, the climbing frame, the outdoor area and the pre-school itself; demonstrate that at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present; ensure that a current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is obtained for all staff.

In addition to these actions we issued a further notice to improve which required you to take action as follows: ensure that children can help themselves to fresh drinking water whenever they want; ensure assessments clearly identify children's level of achievement and identify relevant next steps that will help them progress in areas where they are achieving less well. Actions were also raised for the Childcare Register which asked you to: ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (both parts of the Childcare Register); ensure that at least one person who is caring for children has an appropriate first aid qualification (both parts of the Childcare Register); make sure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with children is suitable to do so by obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (both parts of the Childcare Register)

During the monitoring visit the inspector discussed with you the steps you have taken to address the issues raised. She observed staff and children both inside the pre-school and in the attached outdoor space of the pre-school and, with you, visited the environmental area which is used by the pre-school. The inspector also spoke to a representative from the local authority and to the chairperson of the pre-school committee. She looked at your criminal records checks log, your risk assessments and copies of your first aid certificates. The inspector also looked at your action plan, improvement plan and records of support visits carried out by your local authority adviser.

The inspector found that, before you had received the full report or relevant notices, you had taken steps to develop an action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection. The action plan covers most of the requirements set out in the notices and has enabled you to identify how to address the areas for improvement. The inspector found that, having received the full report and notices, you have taken subsequent action to address the areas not previously covered. In addition the inspector found you have also developed an improvement plan which enables you to plan for ongoing improvement. You have welcomed support from your local authority whose advisers have carried out a number of visits to the setting.

A member of staff has taken on responsibility for carrying out risk assessments in the pre-school. Appropriate training for her in this area has been identified and booked by the local authority adviser. New risk assessments have been developed for the gate, trips to local shops and the environmental area. However, the risk assessment for the environmental area needs further review to ensure the robustness of some of its measures to keep children safe. Guidelines for using the environmental area are also displayed in the playroom for staff and have been shared at a staff meeting. In addition a new daily risk assessment has been developed and you were able to demonstrate that this is regularly completed. The climbing frame is no longer in use at the pre-school so no risk assessment is needed for this. A generic risk assessment has been completed for the pre-school as a whole with a setting specific one in the process of being developed. As a result children's safety is being prioritised.

The inspector viewed valid first aid certificates for five members of staff including both the manager and the deputy. You confirmed that there are always at least two members of staff in each session who have first aid training. This means that children are being cared for in a setting where there is always at least one member of staff who has the appropriate training to deal with accidents and illness.

The inspector also viewed the criminal record checks log for the setting. New disclosures have been applied for for a number of staff whose existing checks had been undertaken by organisations other than the pre-school. However, not all the

disclosures have as yet been returned.

During the visit the inspector observed a station for fresh drinking water both inside and outside. Although the water was above child level indoors there was clear signage at child height and staff confirmed that children asked if they wanted a drink. A child was observed pouring himself a drink outside. Ensuring fresh drinking water is available is also now an item on the daily risk assessment and bottles of water are taken to the environmental area. As a result children are able to access fresh drinking water at all times.

You have begun to make changes to your daily routines so that key people have the opportunity to work with their key groups of children. You are also making changes to your planning and working with your local authority advisers to improve the staff's knowledge and skills in specific areas including observation, assessment and planning. A training day is arranged for all staff to attend in relation to this. The deadline date has not yet passed for you to respond fully to this action. We will assess the improvements to assessments and how these shape the learning experiences for each child at the next visit.

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 further monitoring.

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
assess the risk to children's safety and identify how the risk will be removed or minimised; this is with particular regard to the school's environmental area, the climbing frame, the outdoor area and the pre-school itself	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
demonstrate that at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that a current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is obtained for all staff	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that at least one person who is caring for children has an appropriate first aid qualification (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that at least one person who is caring for children has an appropriate first aid qualification (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
make sure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with children is suitable to do so by obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
make sure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with children is suitable to do so by obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check	16/05/2014	21/05/2014

(compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

ensure that children can help themselves to fresh drinking water whenever they want	16/05/2014	21/05/2014
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ensure assessments clearly identify children's level of achievement and identify relevant next steps that will help them progress in areas where they are achieving less well	09/06/2014	21/05/2014
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ensure assessments clearly identify children's level of achievement and identify relevant next steps that will help them progress in areas where they are achieving less well	09/06/2014	
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