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World of Children
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Our Reference EY417826

Dear Patricia Stephenson

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Jennifer Liverpool, monitored your provision on 13/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 17/03/2014, 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 observed the staff working with the children, and observed the activities and resources available to the children. The inspector viewed some documentation including your staff records, attendance register, policies and the record of the risk assessment. She also looked at the activity plans and the progress checks that staff have completed on the children. The inspector spoke to individual members of staff. She also had a discussion with the early years consultant to find out the support systems that have been put in place to help staff develop and build on children's vocabulary. Staff have also attended training that focuses on how to support and extend children's language development.

The inspector found that you are making progress in addressing the actions. You have put systems in place to help ensure the suitability of staff is closely monitored. For example, staff are not left unsupervised with children until checks are cleared. You have also reviewed the employment and staffing policy for the nursery and discussed these procedures with staff during staff meetings so that they understand the procedure to not leave children unsupervised with un-vetted persons.

The inspector examined children's profiles to establish how you monitor and evaluate children's progress and take into account planning for the next steps in children's learning and development. You and a member of staff demonstrated how observations are now used to track children's development and identify the next steps in children's learning and development to inform future activities. Children's interests are also identified. This is the used by staff in their planning to help provide children variety and some challenge in their play.

Since the last inspection you have taken steps to improve the key-person system so that the individual needs of the children are met. For example, the key person is now required to take on a stronger role. They are required to complete children's profiles through regular observations, and to identify the next steps in children's learning and development to inform future planning. Parents are kept informed of their child's key person so that they have a consistent member of staff to liaise with regarding their child's development and progress. You have started to jointly monitor children's individual needs with their key persons during supervision sessions to help ensure that each child's needs are met. Also staff have attended training, which focused on the developmental needs for children aged under 3 years and how support can be maximised by staff. You have also reviewed the way in which children are allocated a key person, taking into consideration which member of staff children are more familiar with so that trustful relationships can be developed. A key person discussed how staff liaise with parents to find out about children's interests, achievements and their first language. to This provides continuity in children's learning and development.

Supervision sessions, peer observations and meetings have been held with staff in regards to improving opportunities to promote children's communication and language development. Staff have also received welcoming support from a senior member of staff and the local authority early years consultant to help them model language and develop confidence in using questioning techniques. In general, the programme for communication and language development is steadily evolving.

You have identified a nominated person responsible for behaviour management issues. Their role is to support and advise staff on managing children's behaviour with a consistent manner. In addition, you and the staff have attended behaviour management training to help adopt a positive approach to managing children's behaviour. During the visit children were happy, settled and engaged throughout.

You have taken steps to improve the arrangements for making fresh drinking water accessible to children. The inspector observed that children have access to fresh drinking water. Therefore, some of the children who are more able can help themselves to drinks during the session. The inspector also observed that younger children receive regular drinks to make sure that they do not get thirsty.

The inspector observed and discussed with you how you promote children's safety, particularly in regards to the outdoor play area. For example, risk assessments are carried out daily and actions taken to minimise potential hazards to children. You have also reviewed the outdoor play space and now only allow small groups of children to play in the outdoor area at any one time. This allows them to have sufficient space to move and be able to access a suitable quantity of resources to play with. The inspector found that you have developed the outdoor play area to help support children's learning and development. For example, children have access to a gazebo where they can play and stay cool in the shade. Children have a developing range of play equipment outdoors that adds variety to their play and contributes to their physical development. Staff also plan for children's learning outdoors and use incidental opportunities, such as, mini beasts to support children's understanding of the world.

The inspector discussed how you monitor and evaluate your provision to have a clear understanding of strengths and weaknesses to foster continuous improvements. You are developing a system for a system for self-evaluation, which is currently a work in progress. As part of this ongoing process you have encouraged staff to attend a number of training courses to update their knowledge in childcare. You are also looking at ways to strengthen partnership with parents so that they can become involved in their children's learning and development.

The inspector discussed a concern received by Ofsted that the manager has not always been on the premises to support and guide the staff. The inspector found that this does happen however, there is an experienced and qualified deputy left in charge. The inspector discussed a concern about a lack of communication with parents particularly in regards to activity plans for their children. During the visit, parents spoke favourably about the nursery. They commented that they are kept well informed by the manager and the staff about their child's care, development and learning for their children. She also examined monthly newsletters that are given to parents to keep them informed about the provision of care for their children. The inspector also discussed a concern that children have a number of accidents outdoors because of being overcrowded due to the space. The inspector examined the accident book. At this time, there is no indication that children have had a number of accidents outdoors. This meets the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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
ensure that people whose suitability has not been checked, including through a Disclosure and Barring Service check, do not have unsupervised contact with children	18/03/2014	
ensure that all staff have the knowledge and skills to respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction	21/03/2014	
ensure that children have opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and develop staff's skills in using questions to extend and develop children's learning and development	21/03/2014	
develop the use of observations and assessment to ensure that planning supports children's next steps and helps them to make progress in relation to their starting points	21/03/2014	
ensure that every child has a key person to ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs	21/03/2014	
ensure that there is a nominated person who is responsible for behaviour management and who has the necessary skills to advise staff on how to consistently manage children's behaviour	21/03/2014	13/06/2014
ensure that children have access to fresh drinking water at all times	18/03/2014	13/06/2014
develop the outdoor play area, to provide suitable and sufficient resources to enable children to explore and use their physical skills	21/03/2014	13/06/2014
ensure that risk assessments identify and	18/03/2014	13/06/2014

minimise all hazards to children, with particular regard to the outdoor play area

ensure the systems used to foster continuous improvement are robust; make sure that self-evaluation identifies and addresses key weaknesses, priorities and targets for improvement based on rigorous monitoring of practice

31/03/2014

ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

21/03/2014

13/06/2014

ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

21/03/2014

13/06/2014

ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

18/03/2014

13/06/2014

ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)

18/03/2014

13/06/2014