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Cleobury Mortimer Playgroup
Cleobury Mortimer Primary School,
Love Lane
Cleobury Mortimer
KIDDERMINSTER
Worcestershire
DY14 8PE

Our Reference EY443208

Dear Cleobury Mortimer Playgroup Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Jacqueline Nation, monitored your provision on 27/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 21/05/2014, 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 taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. The inspector also spoke to the deputy manager, the acting head and later had a telephone discussion with the Chair of the Committee, and a local authority advisor. She conducted a tour of the premises and observed children during snack time and taking part in play and learning activities both indoors and outside. The inspector found that after your last inspection, you immediately met with the committee to discuss the outcome of the inspection, to look at the actions raised and the steps required to secure improvement. In the first instance, you prioritised the action with regard to making sure members of the management committee promptly apply for Disclosure and Barring Service checks. While some of these checks are not yet fully complete, they are all in progress.

The inspector found that you recognise that the management accountability arrangements are currently unclear and the impact this has in terms of monitoring and evaluating the quality of the provision. The Chair of the Committee confirmed that she is clear about how to move forward and define individual roles and responsibilities to strengthen procedures, and make sure the quality of the provision

is monitored and evaluated effectively to raise the quality of planning, assessment and teaching. You confirmed that the local authority plan to visit the setting to provide advice, guidance and support and you have taken further action to secure additional support by entering into a service level agreement with the Early Years Team. You acknowledge that this will provide you with the opportunity to establish the support they can provide particularly around access to training with regard to planning, observation and assessment and behaviour management. This is to help you further secure improvement and strengthen these aspects of practice effectively within the setting.

The inspector looked at the steps you have put in place to make better use of assessments to inform planning and the organisation of routines and resources. You confirmed that since the inspection you have met regularly as a team and will be conducting peer observations to assess the quality of teaching and learning. You explained that you are currently reviewing the way you carry out observations and how effectively this information is used to plan for children's individual learning needs. You confirmed that the key focus is to make better use of observations and assessments to inform planning. You explained that this will enable staff to consistently focus their teaching and support to meet children's individual learning and development needs, taking into account their stage of development and their interests. You acknowledged that changes to observation, assessment and planning are work in progress and that planned further training will benefit all staff and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. The acting Head confirmed that she is keen to engage with you to provide support with regard to observations, assessment and planning, and to further link with the early years team in school to build on good teaching and learning overall.

The inspector found that you have reviewed the deployment of staff in order to consistently and effectively manage children's behaviour. It is clear that you recognise your role in helping children to learn to cooperate with each other and how to share toys and resources. You acknowledge that undertaking training relating to behaviour management would be beneficial to further enhance staffs' skills and knowledge. You explained that you have looked at the arrangements for meeting the needs of the younger children in the setting by reviewing the organisation of activities, particularly at story and group times to ensure all children's needs are met. The inspector found that you have taken steps to review documentation relating to individual children to make sure all the required information is sought from parents and recorded. The inspector found that the weakness identified in record keeping has been resolved and children's welfare is fostered effectively.

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
deploy staff effectively and ensure their consistent application of behaviour management strategies help children to behave well	30/06/2014	27/06/2014
clearly define the roles and responsibilities of leaders and managers in the playgroup, and strengthen procedures for monitoring and evaluating the quality of the playgroup's provision and for supporting the manager's and staff's professional development	30/06/2014	27/06/2014
record the following information for each child in their care, name and address of every parent and/or carer who is known to the provider and information about any other person who has parental responsibility for the child, which parent(s) and/or carer(s) the child normally lives with, and emergency contact details for parents and/or carers.	16/06/2014	27/06/2014
ensure that the arrangements for assessing that all those who are involved in the childcare provision are suitable for their roles; specifically making sure members of the management committee promptly provide Disclosure and Barring Service checks information to Ofsted	16/06/2014	27/06/2014
make better use of assessments to inform the planning and organisation of activities and routines to enable staff to consistently focus their teaching and support on the differing needs and abilities of the children who attend and so that each child develops the skills and understanding to learn effectively	30/06/2014	27/06/2014