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Humpty Dumpty Playgroup
Parish Rooms
Church Road, Codsall
Nr Wolverhampton
Staffordshire
WV8 1EH

Our Reference 218165

Dear Humpty Dumpty Playgroup (Codsall) Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Patricia Webb, monitored your provision on 03/07/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 07/04/2014, 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 children and staff in the main playroom and during outdoor play. She had a discussion with you, your deputy and other staff. The inspector also spoke to a representative from the local authority and with some parents, and other registered providers who use the playgroup. She looked at your action plan, daily records of the attendance of children and staff, risk assessments and behaviour management policies and procedures. The inspector also looked at accident and incident records, and children's developmental records and planning.

The inspector found that you took immediate action following the inspection and contacted the early years advisory team from the local authority. The management committee held a number of meetings to discuss the actions raised and draft the comprehensive action plan. You and your staff are working systematically through the action plan to bring about improvement, particularly with regard to raising the quality of teaching and learning. This has been supported wholeheartedly by the parents who are working with you to evaluate and reflect the confidence they have in the playgroup. The staff-to-child ratios are met at all times as confirmed by the clear records of the daily attendance of children and staff. Consequently, children are

well supervised and relate positively to their key persons. The register indicates the numbers of children attending in each age range. You are exploring further ways to strengthen how the staffing is arranged when children engage in the free-flow choice of indoor and outdoor play. You are, however, fully aware of meeting overall ratios on site, to maintain effective supervision and meet children's needs.

Staff have attended specific training to raise their knowledge and understanding of how children develop the characteristics of effective learning. They consider individual children's learning styles as they recognise the uniqueness of each child and plan accordingly. Staff have posters and small cards to refer to as they plan, observe and assess, to develop their confidence in using the Early Years Foundation Stage terminology as they share this with parents. This means that a collaborative approach to children's learning between the playgroup and the home is actively encouraged. Observation and assessment is more accurate and staff are now using tracking documents to plot children's progress. This means staff are identifying any potential gaps in children's attainment or plan for those children who would benefit from further challenge, extension and support to reach their full potential.

Staff take account of children's varying ages and stages of development and ability when planning group activities, as part of this re-evaluation of practice. In-depth planning ensures that each child has the necessary resources and support to achieve. For example, during the monitoring visit, the inspector observed an art and craft activity linked to the current, 'Under the Sea' theme. Older children were supported in cutting out their own sea creatures and shapes to stick on the picture. Younger children were given the opportunity to try using scissors, including adult/child scissors and left-handed scissors, in order for every child to enjoy the activity, as well as succeeding in producing a finished item, using some pre-cut shapes where necessary. This raises children's self-esteem and hones their physical and creative skills. In addition, staff are intuitive in supporting quieter children during the sessions. For example, younger children settling-in to the routines enjoy one-to-one support when trying out new experiences when the main group of children are having story and song time. This encourages their confidence and emotional security with their dedicated key person.

You have reviewed the policies and procedures for the management of children's behaviour. Staff are due to attend specific training when available next term. In the meantime, they are conducting behaviour management research, reading and completing online training as recommended by the early years advisers. Staff encourage children to become aware of boundaries and expectations of their behaviour and the consequences of their choices on others. Younger children are supported in coping with strong emotions with sensitivity and an acknowledgement of the events and changes in their lives which may impact on this. For example, staff are aware of some children possibly being anxious or apprehensive about the

forthcoming move to nursery or school. Parents are reassured that any consequential behaviour is most likely to be a short-lived phase. Parents appreciate the support they receive from you and your staff in developing consistent approaches to managing such concerns.

Any minor accidents and injuries are managed with the child's comfort and reassurance being the first considerations. All accidents and incidents are carefully recorded by the attending first aider as soon as the child is safe and their injury has been attended to. Parents are informed of any accidents or incidents at the time of collecting their child and they sign the relevant records to indicate they have been informed. If more serious accidents, or head bumps, were to occur, parents would be contacted by telephone as soon as possible. You are now also recording any head bumps on blue forms, which are shared with parents and easily spotted in children's records. This follows the playgroup's revised policies and procedures, and ensures that children's good health and well-being are priorities for the staff in the playgroup.

Risk assessments are carried out diligently and you have taken steps to address the broken fencing in the outdoor play area. Staff remove any broken or damaged toys, resources or equipment as soon as it is noticed to promote children's safety and welfare. You and the committee regularly collate the accidents that have happened and analyse these to see if any hazardous areas may be evident. You are also following advice from the consultant teacher's guidance regarding also assessing some activities, such as when children use real tools, to further ensure their safety.

You have reviewed the way in which children can access fresh drinking water during the sessions. Children now have their own drinking bottles, which are stored in individual pockets which have their names and pictures on. They independently locate and find their own bottles and so take some responsibility for their own health and well-being. They enjoy the social interaction that takes place during the whole group snack time. They sit with their friends at the table and discuss healthy options as they enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables regularly. Staff are also aware of how children develop independence and self-care skills during this time as they spread butter on their own bread and add various fillings. You ensure that children have daily opportunities to enjoy active play and fresh air with thoughtful planning. Children participate in activities that cover all areas of learning and development, indoors and outside. They also have opportunities to visit amenities and venues in the local area, learning about their community and becoming aware of road safety.

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 staff to child ratios are adhered to at all times so that children are adequately supervised	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
ensure staff follow written procedures for dealing with and reporting accidents and incidents to parents, especially those that relate to sustained injuries that are not visible, such as bangs to the head	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
ensure children have access to fresh drinking water so that they are adequately hydrated throughout the session	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
ensure children have daily opportunities for outdoor play, so that they benefit from fresh air and physical exercise	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
ensure that the outdoor environment and equipment are safe and suitable for children to use, this particularly refers to the wire fencing, broken wooden panels and the storage of broken toys and equipment	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
ensure risk assessments identify all aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked and how the risk will be removed or minimised to ensure children's safety	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
improve the quality of teaching and learning by ensuring that training is focused on raising staff's knowledge of how to promote the characteristics of effective learning	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
improve the effectiveness of observation and assessment by developing staff knowledge of how to use observations of what children can already do, in order to identify and target the next steps in their learning so children make good progress	03/07/2014	04/07/2014

in every area and by sharing information with parents about children's ongoing progress

ensure there is an effective system for managing unwanted behaviour, to ensure children are kept safe and know what is expected of them	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
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improve educational programmes so that there is depth and breadth across all seven areas of learning, ensuring that children are challenged and interested in the activities provided, reviewing group sizes to ensure that children are offered activities that are age appropriate and planning activities effectively so that there are adequate resources for all children.	03/07/2014	03/07/2014
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