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BBDC Childcare Providers
249-251 School Road
Yardley Wood
BIRMINGHAM
B14 4ER

Our Reference EY396976

Dear BBDC Childcare Providers

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Rachel Wyatt, monitored your provision on 04/07/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 10/04/2014, 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 staff working with babies and children, and viewed the activities and resources available to them. The inspector looked at a sample of assessment and planning records, and talked to key persons about their work with children. She had a discussion with two parents about the quality of the nursery provision for them and their children. During the visit, the inspector also spoke to you, the other director of the company, your manager, individual members of staff and the children. The inspector accompanied you on a walk round the nursery premises to look at the ongoing refurbishment of the outdoor play area and improvements you have made to ventilation, safety, cleanliness and access to hot water in the indoor areas of the nursery, including the toilets. You also discussed catering arrangements for children's lunches. The inspector looked at and discussed your risk assessments and safety checks and also checked evidence of suitability and qualifications of all those who work in the nursery. The inspector also looked at and discussed your action plan, your arrangements for evaluating the nursery's provision and for monitoring staff's performance. During the visit, the inspector spoke to a manager in the local authority's early years consultancy team and following the visit she talked to the local authority early years consultant who visited you on 7 July 2014.

The inspector found that while you have begun to address some of the actions raised you have not developed a clear well-targeted and measurable action plan to support improvements. You also do not have a thorough system for evaluating the overall effectiveness of the nursery. This and the fact that your arrangements for monitoring staff's performance and promoting their professional development are at an early stage, means you do not have a clear picture of what you do well and where you need to improve. Following the visit to you on 7 July 2014, the local authority early years consultant asked you to devise an action plan which sets out clear priorities, timescales and responsibilities to ensure all the actions from the last inspection are addressed in a timely way. At the moment, weaknesses in planning for improvement mean that your progress in addressing the actions for improvement has been variable, particularly in the case of those actions relating to the educational programme, the provision of resources and performance management procedures.

The inspector found that you have taken appropriate steps to improve the condition and safety of the outdoor area. You are replacing the decking and improving the condition and safety of equipment and areas outdoors. You have repaired the leak in the staff toilet and added a latch to secure the door. New flooring in toilet areas and part of the pre-school has improved the appearance and safety of these areas. However, you have recognised that the safety of the conservatory flooring and organisation of that space requires improvement before this part of the nursery can be used again. Staff are more vigilant about keeping potties clean and you have devised procedures detailing what action to take in the event of any future failure to the hot water supply or any other systems' failures or significant events. You are also in the process of reviewing your arrangements for assessing risks and monitoring safety, including seeking a health and safety consultant's advice about the draft documents.

Since the last inspection, you have sought the advice of a health and safety consultant who has helped you to improve the temperature and ventilation in the pre-school room. The inspector found that you are also taking steps to clarify your and the landlord's legal responsibilities for the maintenance of the nursery building in order to ensure more cohesive arrangements for tackling hazards and making repairs in the future. You have discussed the content of meals with the caterer and asked him to provide details of ingredients. You have not yet had a reply, which is delaying your assessment of whether the meals you offer children contain acceptable levels of salt and sugar. In other respects, the inspector found you offer children appropriate snacks and have involved them in discussions and activities focussing on healthy eating. The inspector found that you have begun to develop some aspects of the educational programme, including encouraging staff to focus more on mathematics and children's physical development. You have introduced some new songs and resources focussing on number, shape, colour and size and organised some indoor physical play equipment suitable for younger children. However, it is too early to

assess the impact of these and the inspector found inconsistencies in staff's planning, the quality of their teaching and their use of resources. Not all staff understand about planning for children's next steps and the quality of their interactions with babies and children varies. For example, the inspector found staff missed opportunities to consolidate children's understanding of number, quantity, shape and measure during routines, such as snack time and during activities which had been planned to focus on these concepts. Since the last inspection, staff have received formal supervision on one occasion. While you follow an appropriate format for these meetings to include opportunities for them to discuss their work with children, not enough attention is given to identifying what they do well and which aspects of their practice require improvement. Peer observations are not yet being used effectively to assess the quality of staff's engagement with children and their use of resources. As a result, your performance management arrangements are not being used effectively to identify and support staff's training needs or to raise the quality of assessment, planning and teaching.

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 that the educational programme covers the seven areas of learning, is sufficiently well monitored and includes interesting activities that provide adequate challenge for children so that they all make best progress	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
ensure that the premises, including outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose, with reference to the decking outdoors, the unlocked staff toilet, overly warm temperatures, lack of ventilation and access to natural daylight in the main playroom	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
comply with the requirements of health and safety legislation and ensure that potties are maintained in a clean and hygienic condition, the staff toilet is repaired and there is a hot water supply to the hand wash basins	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
ensure that the premises and resources are used effectively to support individual children's learning and development	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
help children understand the importance of making healthy choices in their food, ensuring they have diet that is low in salt and sugar	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
ensure there an effective programme of peer observation, professional development and performance management that helps staff improve their knowledge, understanding and quality of teaching	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
ensure the premises used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
improve the educational programmes for mathematics and physical development	11/05/2014	04/07/2014

by ensuring that children have opportunities to climb and move about more freely and using mathematical language to support children's understanding of quantity and to make comparisons between sizes and shapes.

take all necessary measures to minimise and identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
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ensure the premises used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
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take all necessary measures to minimise and identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	11/05/2014	04/07/2014
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ensure that the educational programme covers the seven areas of learning, is sufficiently well monitored and includes interesting activities that provide adequate challenge for children so that they all make the best possible progress	08/08/2014	
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ensure that the premises and resources are used effectively to support individual children's learning and development	08/08/2014	
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ensure there is an effective programme of peer observation, professional development and performance management that helps staff improve their knowledge, understanding and quality of teaching	08/08/2014	
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improve the educational programmes for physical development and mathematics by ensuring that children have opportunities to climb and move about more freely and to use mathematical language which supports their understanding of quantity and to make comparisons between sizes and shapes.	08/08/2014	
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