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Alphabet Buddies Club
North Worksop Children's Centre
Raymoth Lane
Worksop
Nottinghamshire
S81 7LU

Our Reference EY389995

Dear Alphabet House Day Nurseries (Worksop) Ltd

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Anne Barnsley, monitored your provision on 09/07/2014 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 your line manager and club supervisor the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She observed staff working with the children and viewed the environment, resources and activities available to consider how well these are now organised to promote all areas of learning and to ensure that children are actively engaged in motivating play in addition to having somewhere to relax. She discussed with your line manager the steps you have taken to ensure that Ofsted is notified of any changes in management. The inspector was unable to speak to a representative from the local authority, because you have been unable to access their support. She discussed your plan for improvement with your line manager and the club supervisor and was also shown questionnaires that have been sent to children and parents to seek their views about improvements. Discussion took place about how planning is now organised to meet children's individual needs to help support them with making consistent progress in their learning and development. Your club supervisor explained clearly the steps she has taken to improve partnership working with parents and schools. This is still to be fully embedded, but it is likely that you will be able to enhance the support children receive in their learning through a more consistent and continuous approach.

The inspector found that you have taken proactive steps to progress the actions and the recommendations that were raised at the last inspection to improve the outcomes for children. You have a well-structured plan of improvement in place that prioritises actions effectively and monitors progress. You ensure that Ofsted is notified of changes to management as part of your suitable person procedure, which helps to safeguard children. You know to complete the relevant forms and to send these to Ofsted. To ensure that these are received you have adopted a more robust procedure yourself by sending these by recorded delivery, which can be tracked.

You have taken steps to improve the learning opportunities that children receive in several ways. You have designated the responsibility for improvement to a specific club supervisor, to be overseen by the line manager. They work very closely together and have had many meetings to discuss the improvements and to review the progress and next steps. They have devised a well-structured improvement plan, which is updated when targets are met or when new targets are added. While all staff are involved in helping to drive improvements forward, the improvements are consistently monitored by having a designated person in charge. Your supervisor has improved the planning of activities by more effectively linking children's individual interests and next steps to the activities. She has devised long-term themes and topics that are based on children's interests and has narrowed these down into weekly plans of the activities that relate to the topics and themes. Improved use of observation and assessment enables staff to incorporate children's next steps in learning into the activities. This means that children receive consistent support in their learning and development, which meets their needs and helps them to make continued progress.

You have increased the resources, set out a homework table and replaced the computer, which enables children to continue with their school work if they wish. Many new resources have been obtained and now provide children with greater choice indoors. Well-targeted plans are in place to increase the outdoor resources further in the very near future. A list of resources has been created for this purpose. Training on outdoor, continuous provision has been organised to develop staff knowledge and skills about how to provide this well. There are plans in place to review the resources available once again, after the training is completed. The steps that have been taken to date, along with those that are in place to act on, have improved. The challenges and resources that are offered to children are now more stimulating. Further to this, plans are in place to develop the existing quiet area to make this more cosy and inviting to children. You plan to add a gazebo or mosquito net to make a den, more bean bags, cushions and a soft carpet. It is nearly the end of term, but you stated that progress will continue over the summer holiday so that all necessary changes will be completed before the new term starts in September 2014.

Staff training, supervision and appraisals are in place to ensure that staff have the necessary skills for their role and to ensure children continue to receive good-quality care and learning. All staff are now required to attend meetings and participate in supervisions, appraisals and training sessions. Each member of staff has their own file, which provides details of their professional needs and how management are making sure these are met. These systems and policies have been improved to ensure that all staff participate and benefit from the support and training provided. For example, management now take swifter action to address poor attendance at mandatory meetings and training. More robust records have been introduced to monitor attendance at meetings and training events and also to maintain a tighter log on the training needs of kids club staff over a period of time.

Effective steps have been taken to involve parents in their child's learning and to keep them better informed about their child's progress and how they guide their learning at home. For example, the supervisor has introduced herself to all parents and makes a point of talking to them daily when they collect their child. All planning has been displayed so that parents can see the long-term plans for topics and themes and the weekly plans for the activities that are taking place. All parents and their child were sent individual questionnaires after the last inspection seeking their views about where, and how, they felt improvements should be made to meet the actions that were raised. Their views have been added to the improvement plan to ensure that they are addressed appropriately. For example, parents stated that obtaining further resources for the outdoor area was a priority. This now forms a key aspect of the improvement plan. Links with the school have been significantly improved, so staff share information with the reception class teachers and are better informed about individual children's next steps. Plans are also in place to meet with teachers at the beginning of the new term. This strengthened partnership working and shared approach helps enable staff to keep parents better informed about their child's learning and development and to ensure that children receive consistency and continuity in their learning.

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
improve arrangements for the effective supervision of staff. Provide support, coaching and training, which promotes the behaviour, interests, development and well-being of children and enhances the daily experience of the overall quality of provision	09/07/2014	09/07/2014
improve knowledge of safeguarding by ensuring Ofsted is notified of any changes in circumstance as soon as possible, such as the person managing the setting	09/07/2014	09/07/2014
ensure planning, observation and assessment is consistent in quality and is effective in matching activities, which complement the educational programmes	09/07/2014	09/07/2014
ensure a welcoming and motivating environment with a well-planned range of stimulating toys and resources that provide challenge for children to encourage their interest and enthusiasm.	09/07/2014	09/07/2014
inform Ofsted of the appointment of a new manager of childcare on non-domestic premises (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	09/07/2014	09/07/2014
inform Ofsted of the appointment of a new manager of childcare on non-domestic premises (voluntary part of the Childcare Register).	09/07/2014	09/07/2014