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Little Acorns
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Our Reference EY336168

Dear Mrs Woodman And Mrs Evans Partnership

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Julie Swann, monitored your provision on 11/07/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 20/05/2014, 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, your area manager and the setting manager the steps you have taken to address the actions raised in the notice to improve. She reviewed the educational programmes you implement to determine whether improvement had been made to ensure they cover all areas of learning and provide children with challenges that help them to make best progress. The inspector observed interaction between staff and children in the nursery and discussed with you how you have developed the key-person system to ensure children's individual needs are met. The inspector also looked at what measures you had taken to ensure staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and what training and support had been provided to help them fulfil their duties. The inspector also looked at the tracking processes used that determine children's progress and reviewed what systems had been put in place to ensure parents are involved in assessing their children's progress.

The inspector found that you have developed a clear and concise action plan to support improvement and address the issues raised at your last inspection. You have reviewed, and are continuing to improve, systems to evaluate the quality of practice of all staff working in the setting and the impact this has on children's learning. Additionally, you have considered what improvements can be made in the long term

to maintain and build on these. You have involved, and taken the advice of, the local authority and there is a more focused approach to training, coaching and involving staff in improving practice. This has enabled you to accurately prioritise the areas for improvement identified at your last inspection and to plan for sustainable, ongoing improvement.

The inspector found that you are in the process of developing consistent practice to fully support all children's learning. You have recently made changes to the way staff observe, assess and plan for children's learning. You have also sought additional training to support some staff in improving the quality of teaching, particularly in relation to personal, social and emotional development to promote communication and language. Staff now complete regular assessments of the progress all children are making and clearly identify the steps that need to be taken to support their learning further. Planning is now more individualised for children, and the use of tracker documents is assisting staff in ensuring that any gaps in children's learning and development are identified swiftly. This results in children benefiting from appropriate support to make progress in all areas of their learning.

You have raised the level of professional development and support that staff receive through more frequent and effective coaching, mentoring and supervision from members of your head office team. For example, staff are now monitored and supported in their delivery of the curriculum and all staff have accessed training on the Early Years Foundation Stage. They are offered regular meetings and discussion on how they can improve as individuals and how they can work as a team to improve the setting. New resources and improved teaching prompts have been introduced. In particular, the toddler room staff are encouraged to research new ideas and share these during team meetings. This is starting to have an impact on the overall quality of teaching and the effectiveness of staff's interactions with children.

The inspector found you have supported the manager in implementing a system for reviewing teaching practice and to improve how she monitors and supports staff to address weaknesses in teaching and learning through continued monitoring and support. Staff have also improved upon how they share information between themselves and with parents in order for everyone to have an accurate picture of children's overall learning. You have developed a system to involve parents in reviewing their children's progress and this means they can now support their children's learning at home because they are kept informed about the next steps that are set for their children.

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.

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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 staff's knowledge of the learning and development requirements in order to consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child and use this information to accurately identify their next steps in order to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development	24/06/2014	11/07/2014
improve systems to monitor staff so they have the necessary skills and knowledge, and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities so that teaching practice is consistently good; to ensure children are sufficiently challenged in their learning, and accurate information is shared with parents about their children's progress and learning needs	24/06/2014	11/07/2014
improve all staff's understanding of the key-person system to improve liaison with parents so all key staff have relevant information about children's individual needs and positively promote their personal, social and emotional development.	26/06/2014	11/07/2014