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Hartley House Childcare Unit
Charfield Drive
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Our Reference 117120

Dear Hartley House Childcare Unit Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Sara Frost, monitored your provision on 19/08/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 23/05/2014, 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.

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 interaction with the children and the play environment. The inspector reviewed your risk assessments, your action plan, and reports from the local authority support visits. She spoke to a local authority early years advisor prior to feedback.

You have developed a clear action plan to address the issues raised at your last inspection. You have revised your risk assessments and procedures for outings. For example, there will always be at least one member of staff to two children. The staff will have responsibility for small groups of children rather than be deployed at specific identified places. As a result, staff will be able to be responsible for and support individual children in their learning. You will review the adult-child ratio dependent on the need of the children attending on the day and the maximum number of children you will be taking at any one time. You shared that you have recently purchased high-visibility vests for the children and staff with the nursery's telephone number printed on the back of each one. These will be worn on each outing and therefore make it easier to see both the children and adults alike. Outings will be an organised activity and parental consent will be sought for each outing so parents are fully aware of when their child is off the nursery site. Every outing will be incorporated into the planning and have a purpose in order to promote the children's

next steps in their learning and development. You have planned a visit to the local woods in September. And the local authority advisor will attend to offer an impartial view of the changes you have made.

You have actively welcomed support from your local authority early years advisor who reports that you demonstrate a commitment to improvement. You told the inspector that as well as monitoring and observing your staff's practices, you have introduced peer observations. This helps staff look at how they are working with the children and their own individual practice in helping children make progress. The placing of 'word bubbles' around the nursery acts as an aid for staff to ask appropriate questions when engaging with children. You use part of your staff meetings to further promote staff's understanding to encourage children's own thought processes and solve problems. You told the inspector how, with support from early years advisory team, you are planning some in-house training on using the outdoor environment. It is clear you have worked together to actively target areas for improvement.

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 that that staffing arrangements and deployment on outings provide adequate supervision and meet the needs of all children to ensure their safety	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure that risk assessments for outings take account of all potential hazards on the route and also the individual needs of children involved in the outing, making sure that suitable staffing levels are identified so as to keep all children safe at all times	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure staff consider the individual needs, stage of development and any specialist support for each child in their care when planning learning experiences off the premises	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
increase staff awareness of supporting children in thinking of ways to solve problems and change strategies as needed.	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure that children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure that children receiving childcare are kept safe from harm (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
ensure that the childcare is accessible and inclusive by taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the needs of each child, relating to their childcare, are met	30/06/2014	30/06/2014

(compulsory part of the Childcare Register)

ensure that the childcare is accessible and inclusive by taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the needs of each child, relating to their childcare, are met (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	30/06/2014	30/06/2014
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