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Handsworth Day Care Centre
34 St. Peters Road, Handsworth
BIRMINGHAM
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Our Reference 229031

Dear Handsworth Day Care Centre Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Esther Gray, monitored your provision on 28/08/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 24/03/2014, we sent you a welfare requirements notice. 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 on 28 August 2014, the inspector discussed the progress you had made and the steps you had taken to improve the quality of care and education, since the inspection carried out on 24 March 2014 and the subsequent monitoring visit on 12 May 2014. The inspector spoke to practitioners in each room, observed them interacting with children and observed the improvements made to the environment. The inspector also viewed records of children's attendance and the revised risk assessment documents staff use to ensure children are cared for in a safe environment. She also considered the steps taken to assemble all required records and put them in order. The inspector reviewed your written response to the actions raised and followed up the progress made by members of the newly-formed committee, to complete all checking processes required of them, so they can be approved as suitable for that role.

The inspector found that having taken immediate steps to regain proper control of the records, after a period of change of the overseeing committee, you had revised the risk assessment documents and the recording systems for children's attendance. You are setting about ensuring those records are now assembled and put into proper order to safeguard children and ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting, which includes the recruitment procedures. However, the record of children's attendance has not been diligently completed, and gaps in the records leave children at risk in the event of any emergency. It is not clear from the records who is responsible for their care throughout the day and not always clear when they went

home and with whom. Although some of the newly-convened committee members have successfully completed the necessary checks, using the Ofsted online system, there are others who have not, and the committee has not yet confirmed who will become the nominated person to represent this body with Ofsted.

There have been improvements in the diligence with which staff complete other records, such as the records you require within your procedures for monitoring sleeping children. These were found to be completed. Your written response to the notices identifies action taken to improve the learning environment, resources and routines that promote children's emotional and physical well-being and their independent skills. This improvement is being sustained; however, the reduced numbers of children present over the summer period means that the continuity of care for children could not be demonstrated. Practitioners who normally work with pre-school children were being utilised in the baby and toddler areas, and the practitioner who normally works with the baby and toddler children was designated to care for a mixed age range of children who were attending the holiday play scheme.

The inspector found that you have addressed the risks listed on the notice to improve, which were identified during the inspection, and the additional risk identified at the monitoring visit. This was with particular reference to children's safety gates, broken radiator covers and the exits leading onto an area adjoining the next building. Action has been taken to improve the risk assessment procedures and attempts made to implement these procedures to ensure hazards to children are kept to a minimum. However, although you had taken steps to address the risks identified at the inspection and the monitoring visit on 12 May 2014, the inspector found additional risks in the outdoor area which had not been identified and addressed in advance of children playing outdoors. This shows that risk assessment processes are still not fully effective. Consequently, you have not taken sufficient action to comply with the welfare requirement notice, and children remain at risk of harm.

Although you have reacted positively to the risks pointed out to you by the inspector, you have not demonstrated a thorough understanding of what might pose a risk to children's safety and proactively checked all areas and identified all and any risks before children are admitted to the provision. This is despite being given extra time to complete the required actions. Furthermore the registered body/committee has still not met the requirement to ensure all those responsible for the setting have been properly checked and have not demonstrated that they understand and have committed to their roles and responsibilities fully. In particular, they do not effectively oversee the manager and staff in checking and ensuring the environment is safe and suitable for children.

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 further monitoring.

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
WRN:improve the records maintained to ensure the safe and efficient management of the setting and to help ensure the needs of all children are met; this relates to sleep records, records of staff suitability, qualification and training needs	08/07/2014	28/08/2014
WRN: review the risk assessment process and determine where it is helpful to make written risk assessments in relation to specific issues to inform staff practice and to demonstrate how they are managing risks, such as securing doors to prevent children accessing areas of risk	08/07/2014	28/08/2014
WRN: review staffing arrangements to ensure the needs of all children are met and ensure their safety, developing contingency arrangements and identifying roles and responsibilities, such as who will lead the learning and development planning	08/07/2014	28/08/2014
develop the quality of teaching by,monitoring staff's practice to ensure their interactions effectively extend children's learning and ensure training is focused on raising staff's knowledge of their understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and how to promote the characteristics of effective learning	26/05/2014	
ensure the resources available to children, especially in the pre-school room, are sufficient to promote interest and challenge during activities to enable children to fully engage with their learning	26/05/2014	
ensure children are provided with beneficial routines that support their emotional and physical well-being and promote their independence skills.	26/05/2014	

ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (compulsory part of the Childcare Register)	26/05/2014	12/05/2014
ensure staff are fully aware of the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage in relation to completing the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years, this includes sharing this information with other staff as they move into the pre-school room	26/05/2014	
ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (voluntary part of the Childcare Register)	26/05/2014	12/05/2014
WRN:ensure that people looking after children are suitable to fulfil the requirements of their roles and responsibilities; this includes the role of manager, deputy and designated person for child protection and safeguarding	09/05/2014	28/08/2014
WRN:ensure that practitioners and any other person who is likely to have regular contact with children (including those living or working on the premises are suitable; this refers to recruitment processes and continued suitability of adults on the premises	09/05/2014	28/08/2014
WRN: ensure there is a named practitioner responsible for behaviour management in the setting with necessary skills to advise other staff on behaviour issues and to access expert advice if necessary; this includes how to group children according to need and age	09/05/2014	28/08/2014
WRN: develop an effective system for dealing with behaviour management issues to ensure children are kept safe and to promote positive behaviour amongst all children	09/05/2014	28/08/2014
WRN: implement the risk assessment	09/05/2015	28/08/2014

procedures more effectively to ensure hazards to children are kept to a minimum, with particular reference to children's safety gates and broken radiator covers

ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 26/05/2014

ensure that the premises and equipment used for the purposes of the childcare are safe and suitable for that childcare (voluntary part of the Childcare Register) 26/05/2014

ensure that the registered person and any person caring for, or in regular contact, with children: is suitable to work with children which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and be mentally fit for the work (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 26/05/2014 12/05/2014

ensure effective systems are in place to ensure that the registered person and any person caring for, or in regular contact, with children: is suitable to work with children which must include obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and be mentally fit for the work (voluntary part of the Childcare Register). 26/05/2014 12/05/2014

WRN: ensure that every child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs; this includes the deployment of staff to ensure the continuity of care by the child's key person 09/05/2014 28/08/2014

WRN: ensure that all reasonable steps to ensure staff and children are not exposed to risk and demonstrate how risks are managed 26/09/2014

WRN: ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs to 26/09/2014

help children become familiar with the setting and offer a settled relationship for the child and build relationships with their parents; this includes times when numbers of children are low and familiar staff are redeployed to accommodate older children

WRN:ensure that the daily record of the names of children being cared for on the premises and their hours of attendance are accurately recorded at all times 26/09/2014