

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

**Telephone:** 0300 123 1231  
**Fax:** 0300 123 3159  
**Minicom:** 0161 618 8524  
**Email:** enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
**Web:** www.ofsted.gov.uk



Apple Kids Day Nursery  
1 Showell Green Lane  
Sparkhill  
Birmingham  
B11 4NP

Our Reference EY468993

Dear Apple Kids Day Nurseries Ltd

### **Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate**

An Ofsted inspector, Yvonne Johnson / Lorraine Anne Lawton, monitored your provision on 09/10/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

### **Outcome of monitoring**

As a result of our inspection on 11/07/2014, 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.

The welfare requirements notice required you to comply with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) under the following requirements: Suitable People, Risk assessment and Safety.

We also sent you a notice to improve which required you to comply with the following requirements: Staff qualifications, training, support and skills, Staff deployment, Managing behaviour, Premises and Risk assessment.

You were also required to take action in relation to the Learning and Development Requirements of the EYFS.

The steps you were required to take were detailed in full in the notice sent to you on 28 July 2014.

A previous monitoring visit, completed on 13 August 2014, found that you had not taken prompt and effective action and were not complying with the requirements of the notice to improve and welfare requirements notice.

During the monitoring visit of 9 October 2014 the inspectors discussed with you the steps you had taken to address the actions raised in the welfare requirements notice and notice to improve. They observed interaction between staff and children in the two –to- four-year-old room of the nursery. The inspectors also spoke to you, individual members of staff and read reports from representatives from the local authority.

They looked at your planning and assessment records. The inspectors also looked at

your staff records; risk assessments and details of recent meetings with senior staff. The inspectors found that you had taken action regarding staff suitability and had obtained references for all staff. You are intending to appoint a new manager who has previous experience in managing childcare to drive improvement; however the person is not yet in post. Safety outdoors has been improved by the laying of a new concrete surface which has smoothed the edges of the play area, reducing risk to children from tripping. Although some action has been taken to update risk assessments, staff still do not demonstrate sufficient understanding of potential risks to children; for example, the use of large plastic bags in bins accessible to children. You described a clear plan of how you intend to drive improvement and have met with senior practitioners to progress the issues you have identified. A further monitoring visit will look at the impact of any management changes on the quality of childcare at the nursery.

The inspectors saw a new risk assessment for any outings taken by the children, which clearly identifies risks and how these will be minimised. Children have been allocated space to store their belongings, although you are continuing to look at this due to the larger number of children now attending.

The actions set out in the notice to improve regarding behaviour management and learning and development issues have not yet been completed. The inspectors checked your planning and assessment and concluded that the needs of individual children are not yet addressed adequately. Children's next steps for learning are not in line with assessments of their progress and do not cover the full breadth of the areas of learning. Staff are unfamiliar with the requirement to undertake two-year-old checks on children, so these are not yet in place. While there is a focus placed on personal, social and emotional well-being, there is little evidence of opportunities for children to develop across the other areas of learning. Therefore, children are not gaining sufficient skills to ensure they are not disadvantaged when they enter school. Staff's lack of knowledge of the EYFS, specifically in relation to learning and development, impacts on children's behaviour. Children are left to wander without focus or engagement by adults. This results in children losing interest in play and becoming disruptive, hindering their learning opportunities and those of other children. Staff do not encourage children to think about the consequences of their actions in a positive way, so that they learn to self-regulate their behaviour. The inspectors' agreed with you that two further actions will be set under learning and development.

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
ensure routine assessment, such as the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years, is used to identify children's strengths and where progress is less than expected, and provide parents with a short written summary of their children's development in the prime areas of learning	07/08/2014	13/08/2014
ensure that risk assessments identify aspects of the environment which need to be checked on a regular basis and how risk will be removed or minimised (compulsory part of the Childcare Register).	07/08/2014	13/08/2014
ensure that a robust structure is in place that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of leaders and managers, to enable effective communication that promotes the efficient running of the setting and that children are kept safe and well	07/08/2014	13/08/2014
ensure children's bags and personal belongings are stored in an area which is suitable	07/08/2014	13/08/2014
ensure that staff consistently implement behaviour management strategies that give children clear guidance, to help them to learn about what is acceptable behaviour and ensure their safety	07/08/2014	13/08/2014
ensure planning of activities take into account the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child, to ensure that all children make good progress	07/08/2014	13/08/2014
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	07/08/2014	13/08/2014

Register)

ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure risk assessments for outings assess the risk and hazards that may arise and identify the steps to be taken to minimise those risks (compulsory part of the Childcare Register). 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure that arrangements are in place for regular supervision and appraisals for all staff 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure staff are deployed effectively to supervise children in the outdoor play area. 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure that rigorous recruitment procedures are in place to confirm staff's suitability to work with children, taking account of any information received about staff 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure that the premises, specifically outdoor spaces, are fit for purpose; for example by ensuring that children are not at risk from uneven flooring with exposed sharp edges 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure that robust risk assessments are carried out that clearly identify hazards within the environment; that all staff are aware of this information and the steps they must take to minimise risks, with specific regards to the outdoor play area 07/08/2014 13/08/2014

ensure routine assessment, such as the progress check for children between the ages of two and three years, is used to identify children's strengths and where progress is less than expected, and provide parents with a short written summary of their children's development in the prime areas of learning 01/12/2014

ensure planning of activities take into account the individual needs, interests 01/12/2014

and stage of development of each child, to ensure that all children make good progress

ensure that staff consistently implement behaviour management strategies that give children clear guidance, to help them to learn about what is acceptable behaviour and ensure their safety 01/12/2014

ensure that robust risk assessments are carried out that clearly identify hazards within the environment; that all staff are aware of this information and the steps they must take to minimise risks 01/12/2014

develop staff knowledge and understanding of how to promote the learning and development of all children across the breadth of the seven area of learning 01/12/2014

ensure the experiences for children are interesting and challenging and focus on children's different learning styles 01/12/2014

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) 01/12/2014

ensure that children's behaviour is managed in a suitable manner (compulsory part of the Childcare Register) 01/12/2014