

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](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



Somerset Road Pre-School  
Portswood Primary School  
Somerset Road  
Southampton  
Hampshire  
SO17 3AA

Our Reference 131558

Dear Somerset Road Pre-School Committee

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

An Ofsted inspector, Elaine New, monitored your provision on 12/06/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

### **Outcome of monitoring**

As a result of our inspection on 27/02/2014, 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.

To improve the quality of education and care for children you were required to: assess the risk to children's safety and identify how the risk will be removed or minimised; this is with particular regard to the school's environmental area, the climbing frame, the outdoor area and the pre-school itself; demonstrate that at least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate is on the premises at all times when children are present; ensure that a current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is obtained for all staff.

In addition to these actions we issued a further notice to improve which required you to take action as follows: ensure that children can help themselves to fresh drinking water whenever they want; ensure assessments clearly identify children's level of achievement and identify relevant next steps that will help them progress in areas where they are achieving less well. Actions were also raised for the Childcare Register which asked you to: ensure that all necessary measures are taken to minimise any identified risks (both parts of the Childcare Register); ensure that at least one person who is caring for children has an appropriate first aid qualification (both parts of the Childcare Register); make sure that any person caring for, or in regular contact with children is suitable to do so by obtaining an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (both parts of the Childcare Register)

A monitoring visit took place on 21 May 2014, we found that you had taken prompt and effective action in respect of most of the actions you were required to take. A member of staff had taken on responsibility for carrying out risk assessments in the pre-school and appropriate training for her in this area had been identified and booked by the local authority adviser. New risk assessments had been developed for the gate, trips to local shops and the environmental area. However, the risk assessment for the environmental area needed further review to ensure the robustness of some of its measures to keep children safe. Guidelines for using the environmental area had also been displayed in the playroom for staff and had been shared at a staff meeting. In addition a new daily risk assessment had been developed and you were able to demonstrate that this is regularly completed. The climbing frame was found to be no longer in use at the pre-school and therefore no risk assessment was needed for this. A generic risk assessment had been completed for the pre-school as a whole with a setting specific one in the process of being developed. Valid first aid certificates were seen for five members of staff including both the manager and the deputy and you confirmed that there are always at least two members of staff in each session who have first aid training. New criminal record checks had been applied for for the staff whose existing checks had been undertaken by organisations other than the pre-school. However, not all the disclosures had at that time been returned. Fresh drinking water was available for children both inside and outside and bottles were available so that fresh water could be taken to the environmental area.

A second monitoring visit took place on 12 June 2014 to assess the improvements to assessments and how these shape the learning experiences for each child and also to assess the continuing and sustained progress of the actions previously monitored.

You informed the inspector that all newly applied for criminal record checks had now been received and the inspector viewed your log to confirm this. The requirements regarding first aid trained staff were also met at the visit and the inspector observed that fresh drinking water was available. The risk assessment for the environmental area has been further reviewed and updated and now includes more robust measures for ensuring the safety of the children, particularly in respect of the perimeter wall which children may be able to climb over. You informed the inspector that the risk assessment specific to the setting to replace the completed generic one is still being worked on.

You have continued to welcome support from your local authority. All staff have attended training led by local authority representatives in respect of observation and assessment and how this can be used to feed into learning stories and planning. You informed the inspector that the observations that staff make are used, along with their knowledge of the children, to assess where the children are in their learning and development and these assessments inform the children's next steps. These

next steps are now being fed into your planning and into the key person time that has recently been introduced to your session routine. Individual next steps are also followed through by a child's key person. The inspector looked at a sample of learning stories and found for example a child who has been assessed in a lower age band in maths than in the other areas of learning and development, he had an identified next step in maths and there was evidence of observations relating to this next step in his records. Both you and the advisers you are working with, who were present at the visit, confirmed that progress is being made in this aspect of the work of the pre-school. Planning had also been reviewed today; children's interests are clearly identified and activities are linked to areas of learning and development. As a result of these actions children's levels of achievement are better recorded and are better used to plan their learning experiences.

As the visit was coming to an end the local authority advisers drew the inspectors attention to an incident which had occurred in the pre-school during the visit. A child had been in the garden when everyone else was inside, the staff had not known he was there. There was an adult outside but she was a parent helper who is unchecked. The inspector spoke with you, your deputy and the representatives from the local authority about the incident. You and your deputy, who was in charge at the time, explained your procedures for bringing all the children in from the outdoor area for lunch which include checking the outdoor area for children and closing and bolting the door once everyone is inside. However, you did not know if the child had been left outside when everyone else came in or if they managed to leave the building again when the door was opened to admit a parent collecting a child. This shows that the risk assessments you have carried out in respect of this operational aspect of the pre-school are not fully effective in keeping children safe.

Staff not knowing how the incident happened also relates to the supervision of children. When discussing the incident the local authority representative informed the inspector that they had previously had discussions with you about the supervision of children and how staff are deployed to ensure that they are where they need to be to keep children safe and meet their needs. The inspector asked you and your deputy how you deploy staff throughout a session. You explained to the inspector that you operate a rota system with two staff inside and two staff outside. You further explained that you have asked the staff to be aware of where children are but that this does not always result in staff moving from the area they are designated to be working in. The inspector informed you that it is the responsibility of the person in charge to decide how staff are deployed and ensure that they are where they need to be so that children are kept safe and their needs met. This shows that there are times when staff are not effectively deployed and therefore children are not adequately supervised at all times.

The visit shows that prompt and effective action has been taken in respect of the

original outstanding learning and development action and progress has been sustained in some aspects of the previously monitored actions. However, the incident that occurred during the visit shows that elements of the pre-school's risk assessments are not effective and further concerns have been raised in respect of the supervision of children and the deployment of staff. As a result a welfare requirement notice was issued that required you to: ensure that all risks to children's safety are assessed and reviewed regularly and demonstrate how risks will be removed or minimised; this is with particular reference to ensuring that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised; ensure that risk assessments in relation to specific issues are used to inform staff practice; and, ensure that staff deployment is effective in ensuring that children are adequately supervised at all times.

A further monitoring visit took place on 20 June 2014. At the visit the inspector was able to observe that new working practices have been put in place to ensure that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised or be left outside when everyone else comes in. You were also able to show the inspector new risk assessments and you explained that a member of staff is now taking responsibility for these and for ensuring that all staff are informed about how these affect practice. As a result risks are identified and steps taken to minimise them so that children are kept safe.

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 assessments clearly identify children's level of achievement and identify relevant next steps that will help them progress in areas where they are achieving less well	09/06/2014	12/06/2014
Ensure that all risks to children's safety are assessed and reviewed regularly and demonstrate how risks will be removed or minimised; this is with particular reference to ensuring that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. WRN	19/06/2014	20/06/2014
Ensure that risk assessments in relation to specific issues are used to inform staff practice. WRN	19/06/2014	20/06/2014
Ensure that staff deployment is effective in ensuring that children are adequately supervised at all times. WRN	19/06/2014	20/06/2014