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Church of the Ascension Pre-School
Playgroup
Chatterton Hall
School Road, Hall Green
BIRMINGHAM
WEST MIDLANDS
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Our Reference 509383

Dear Church of the Ascension Playgroup Committee

Monitoring for provision judged as inadequate

An Ofsted inspector, Lucy Showell, monitored your provision on 21/05/2014 following your inspection where the provision was judged to be inadequate.

Outcome of monitoring

As a result of our inspection on 26/02/2014, we sent you a notice to improve. The actions you were set 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 looked at your current action plans and those for future improvement. She had a discussion with a member of the committee, the manager and staff in order to assess their understanding of their roles and responsibilities. She looked at your safeguarding policy, staff training, supervision and appraisal records, planning and assessment documentation and children's learning profiles. She observed children's engagement in activities, the balance of adult and child-led opportunities and the quality of staff interactions to support children's learning. She reviewed the information available for parents to raise their awareness of the requirements and how to support children's learning and development. The inspector also spoke with a representative from the local authority.

The inspector found that any actions that you could address immediately after the last inspection were done so within the first week. You have developed a clear plan to address the actions raised at your inspection. These have been prioritised to ensure that children's safety and well-being is promoted in the first instance. You have identified who is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate action is taken and reviewed to ensure they are completed in a timely manner. These plans also demonstrate your commitment to ongoing improvement. The inspector found that an 'ECCERS' audit has been completed and self-evaluation of the provision has been re-

visited and is being updated. This is taking into account the views of staff and parents and the progress made to date.

You have clarified the roles and responsibilities of the newly formed committee. Relevant information for these new associations has been sent to Ofsted and checks, including vetting, through the Disclosure and Barring Service has been initiated to ensure suitability. All committee members have been provided with copies of the Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Their understanding has been developed with the support of external agencies and through additional training and is monitored at committee meetings. Policies and procedures have been revised and updated and all adults have been made aware of these. You explain that regular meetings, appraisals and supervisions ensure adults are able to discuss and clarify understanding of their roles. This is in order to ensure children learn and develop well and to provide an environment in which children are kept safe by promoting their welfare at all times.

You have ensured that all staff and committee members have received safeguarding training. The safeguarding policy and procedures have been revised and include all of the necessary detail in order for staff to report any concerns in a timely way. Safeguarding information is displayed and is a regular agenda item at staff meetings, supervision sessions and appraisals so that it is given a high profile. You intend to extend this further by sending two committee members on an advanced two day training course, as soon as this is available. This means that staff and committee members understand the safeguarding policy and have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues. As a result, they are able to implement the procedures in order to effectively safeguard children.

You are following advice and guidance from advisory teachers in order to improve the opportunities for child-led play and support children to express their ideas. You have introduced a flexible daily routine and plan sessions for children to choose what activities and resources they would like available. You are considering how this can be developed further and are keen to see the impact this has on children's engagement. In addition to this, you have recognised the need for more conversations with children and how important it is to listen to them and ask more open-ended questions. This means that staff are increasingly able to respond to children's developing needs and interests and take account of what children already know and can do. You are seeking advice on how best to provide children with more opportunities to choose, either to play inside or outside. This is with particular consideration to the deployment of staff and the safety of the different shared areas of the premises. You explain that staff have revised the systems for observation and assessment of children's progress and are using these to better effect to plan more for individual children. The layout of the environment is carefully considered and resources chosen that the children enjoy. The activities are effectively planned in order to promote the learning of all children and help them to make good progress and achieve their full potential.

The inspector found that systems are in place for key persons to regularly share

information with parents about their child's care, learning and development. Staff complete observations and assessments of children's progress and these are shared with parents. Parents are invited to contribute their comments and views. In addition, staff share ideas for activities that the parents can do at home with their children to help show how children's learning and development can be further supported. You now have clear information available on the parents notice board about the Early Years Foundation Stage. This includes invitations to workshops and meetings so parents are able to gain an understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and ask any further questions about learning and development.

You have improved the security of the premises by installing alarms on the doors which are activated when opened and by ensuring that the front door is locked at all times. Staff are more vigilant in their supervision of children and their deployment is carefully considered in order to provide children with opportunities in both inside and outside environments. You explain that the written risk assessments identify all aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis. The record of safety checks shows when and by whom those aspects are checked and how the risk is removed or minimised. As a result, children's safety and well-being is secure.

You are working closely with the local authority advisers, continually reviewing what you do and seeking to improve the service you provide. Discussions with the local authority representative during the visit, confirm that a clear plan is in place, and open dialogue continues to identify and action the ongoing improvements being made.

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
develop knowledge and understanding of the provider's responsibilities as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework to ensure children learn and develop well and to provide an environment in which children are kept safe by promoting their welfare at all times.	05/03/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that the premises are secure	04/04/2014	21/05/2014
ensure risk assessments identify all aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised	04/04/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that all staff and members of the committee understand the safeguarding policy and have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues	05/03/2014	21/05/2014
ensure that you implement the safeguarding policy, to effectively safeguard children	05/03/2014	21/05/2014
provide stimulating activities that promote the learning of all children effectively to ensure they make good progress and achieve their full potential	26/03/2014	21/05/2014
provide more opportunities for child-led play and support children to express ideas by responding to their developing needs and interests and by taking account of what they know	26/03/2014	21/05/2014
provide clear information for parents about the Early Years Foundation Stage and how play activities help children to learn and develop	05/03/2014	21/05/2014
ensure a record of the vetting of all persons who work in the playgroup, including committee members, is always available to keep children safe	03/03/2014	21/05/2014