

Bobtails Playgroup & Teddy Club

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8th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our report from the Ofsted inspection, which took place on 6th March 2020 has now been published. In response to this we would like to highlight our disappointment with the rating. We wish to take this opportunity to provide some information regarding the result, and we hope this letter will give some clarity with respect to the administration error that occurred and therefore reinforce that the rating was not in any way a reflection of the care and safety of our children at Bobtails.

There were two issues that led to the rating, these were:

1. An administration error during committee handover - where an Ofsted form (EY2)* was not completed by some committee members.
2. Not providing education/key worker for afternoon nursery children. **

*The EY2 form is essential to Ofsted with respect to safeguarding, it is a second step after the DBS check. This form was missed on this particular occasion, when the new committee members were appointed. However, at the time of the inspection all committee members had valid, clear DBS certificates in place. The DBS check is a criminal record check, which is the same level of teachers in education settings.

**Whilst we interpreted guidance from our local authority that the afternoon sessions for Nursery children were provided by Bobtails as 'childcare' this transpired not to be in alignment with Ofsted requirements.

What have we done to resolve these issues:

- Within fourteen days of the inspection all committee members had completed the relevant EY2 checks with Ofsted and are now fully compliant with suitability criteria.
- A new Bobtails Committee handbook has been created and issued to all new members, outlining all Committee responsibilities including the EY2 process. This document will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Bobtails and St Andrew's Primary School have had extensive meetings and as a result Bobtails have appointed a keyworker for the afternoon children. This keyworker will liaise with St Andrew's Nursery teacher once per week.
- Bobtails and Nursery staff will be sharing Tapestry Online Journals to formalise and build on the verbal communications already taking place. This will ensure that the 'next steps' of each child's education is aligned. This will mirror our good practise of the Bobtails' morning sessions.

It is important to highlight the strengths that our inspector observed and documented during her visit:

- Younger children attending the morning sessions take part in activities that help support their individual needs.
- The key-person system is effective for younger children, who attend morning sessions, and enjoy the familiarity of an adult who makes sure their care and learning needs are met
- Staff use assessment well for younger children who attend morning sessions.
- They plan appropriate activities to support their individual next steps in learning.
- Staff provide a range of activities to support children's imagination
- The management team evaluates the playgroup and considers changes to benefit children.

It is important that we take these positive statements into account when reviewing the report. We are very passionate about the care we provide for our children at Bobtails. Going forward we aim to continue to build on these strengths. We are expecting to be re-inspected within 6 months and are confident that our rating will improve.

If you have any specific concerns relating to this report please email me at chairman@bobtailsplaygroup.org.uk.

Kind regards,