

29 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Chimes Playgroup  
Angus Council**

In May 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's playgroup. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the playgroup and Angus Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the playgroup again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the manager and practitioners. We heard from the manager and practitioners about the steps the playgroup has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the playgroup has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**Develop a full understanding of the statutory requirements with which the playgroup must engage and comply with. This should include the formation of a management committee that meets the requirements of the playgroup constitution.**

An appropriate management committee is now in place. Relevant office bearers are established including a chairperson, secretary and treasurer. To date two meetings have taken place with an Annual General Meeting scheduled in the near future. There are plans to review and refresh the constitution to ensure that it fully reflects the current group. The chairperson, who has a wealth of experience to bring to the role, is keen to involve as many parents as possible. As part of the recent open day, she spoke to parents about the importance of the management committee. Parents can be involved in different ways, including as committee members and being 'happy to help' with matters such as fundraising. This has had a positive response and will complement the already positive partnership between families and the playgroup.

There is an increased understanding of the statutory requirements with which the playgroup must engage and comply with. Going forward this will ensure that appropriate governance is in place. As a result of their partnership the playgroup continues to benefit from support from Angus Council. This is appreciated by the manager and practitioners. With the continued support of Angus Council, the management committee, the manager and practitioners are very well placed to continue to develop the playgroup.

**As planned, continue to develop the work of the playgroup to provide a high quality learning experience for young children.**

Management and practitioners have been responsive to the findings of the original inspection. They plan to use these to form the basis of their plan for improvement for the coming year. 'My World' documentation has recently been reviewed by parents with practitioners. This is supporting the playgroup to best meet individual needs of children.

A support worker has been recruited. This role should support practitioners in a variety of ways with a primary focus on better outcomes for children. Practitioners welcomed the opportunity to play an active role in the recruitment process alongside the manager and committee chairperson.

From observations and review of documentation children are continuing to make very good progress. During our visit we saw older children enjoying working with numbers in simple addition. As a result of the recent focus on planting and growing children have been making predictions about growth. Through measuring their grass and sunflowers they have been testing out their predictions. They have also been using comparative language such as longer and shorter to describe the growth. Children confidently recognise and name letters, sounding out familiar words such as their name. A few children readily identify the difference between upper and lower case letters. Children enjoy sharing their personal experiences, such as new siblings and birthdays. During the warmer weather children have been learning about the importance of sun safety and assessing when sun cream is needed.

A number of children move onto nursery class or school in August. Practitioners have been supporting them in preparation for the move. This includes visits to their new settings.

**What happens next?**

The playgroup has made good progress since the original inspection. We are confident that the playgroup has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Angus Council will inform parents about the playgroup's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its settings and schools.

Barbara Daly  
HM Inspector

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