



Context

Setting A is a Day Nursery and Preschool setting, in Newbury, West Berkshire, with 120 registered places and 141 children on roll. The setting takes children from 3 months until they reach statutory school age.

Starting Points

On 22nd March 2023, setting A, were inspected by OFSTED and graded Requires Improvement in all areas. The following suggestions of areas for improvement were made.

- implement effective monitoring of staff to ensure weaker areas of practice are identified and responded to, to raise the overall quality of the provision.
- improve the key-person system to ensure all children develop secure bonds with staff and help them to continually build on their confidence and self-assurance.
- help staff to plan and implement group times more effectively to meet children's needs and promote learning.
- develop effective professional development for staff, to ensure all staff deliver the curriculum intentions well and teaching is consistently good.

Support Offered

A multi-agency support approach was used to ensure that setting A received the most robust support plan. West Berks Local Authority provided a package of support through their Early Years Team. Setting A also accessed support from the Covid Recovery Experts and Mentors Programme, with their mentor coming from our hub partner. It was during this work that a need for further support work was identified and as a Stronger Practice Hub we were able to provide bespoke support.

The setting received 6 hours of bespoke support for individual room leaders. This was driven by the individuals' needs, but included developing continuous provision, considering timetables and transitions and ensuring that learning intentions were a driver for planned activities.

In addition to bespoke hub support, setting A enrolled onto the 'Maths Champions' programme, Funded by the hub, through our partnership with the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation). The setting has also attended a number of our level 2 events and webinars including open events at Victoria Park Nursery School focussed on outdoor provision, and communication and language webinars.

Impact Evaluation

As a result of robust support received managers at the setting have reported feeling more confident in monitoring and supporting staff. The staff are also more confident in being able to demonstrate their commitment to evidence informed professional development, particularly those involved with the 'Maths Champions' programme.

On the 14th February 2024 setting A was visited by OFSTED and awarded a grading of Outstanding in all areas, from the report you can see that outdoor play, communication have been highlighted as strengths



'Staff expertly provide a curriculum that is centred on engaging children in exploration and discovery. Children benefit from a wealth of outdoor experiences and covered outdoor play areas, which are used all year round, to enhance learning, resilience and curiosity. This provides children with an essential opportunity to explore the natural world, and it builds on their communication and encourages risk taking within a safe environment, as well as promoting high-quality opportunities for adventures and physical activities.' (OFSTED Inspection Report, Feb 14th, 2024)

The report also highlights the progress the setting has made in their mathematics delivery, and how the managers have prioritised CPD for themselves and their staff.

'Leaders continually reflect on the provision they provide and how they can enhance it. For instance, leaders recognise the importance of weaving mathematics into the curriculum and are keen to continue promoting this training to all staff through their 'Maths Champions'. Staff receive consistent support and training, and their own professional development and personal wellbeing are given high priority.' (OFSTED Inspection Report, Feb 14th, 2024)

The setting will continue to develop their CPD programme attending events on offer from the Stronger Practice Hub.