



Inspection Report

Little Lambs Day Nursery

**21 Perrot Street
Treharris
Merthyr Tydfill
CF46 5ER**



Date Inspection Completed

03/06/2021

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About Little Lambs Day Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Natalie Quartermaine
Registered places	19
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	26 October 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people/children who use or intend to use their service. We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow up strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care.'

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have therefore focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children very much enjoy their play and benefit from a suitable range of age appropriate play and learning activities to promote their development. They are developing relationships with their peers and forging positive attachments with staff who care for them.

Staff are caring, responsive to children's needs and plan and monitor children's development and progress. They understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to children's wellbeing and safety and have clear knowledge of the policies and procedures of the setting. They support children's play and learning effectively, encouraging children to try new skills and to develop their independence.

The environment is safe, secure and suitable for the needs of children who attend the service. There is sufficient space for children to explore freely and children benefit from secure outdoor and indoor areas that are clean and well maintained. Appropriate safety procedures are in place, as people who run the service understand their responsibility to ensure that safety checks are completed and reviewed.

People who run the service understand the importance of reviewing and monitoring the service in order to plan for improvements. They ensure best outcomes for parents and children who access the nursery. There are appropriate record keeping systems to facilitate the smooth running of the service and good links with parents.

Well-being

Children have a voice, are able to influence their care and their wishes are considered. They make choices regarding their play and follow their specific interests, with support from staff. During snack time, their requests for second helpings are actioned and when playing children have the option to join in adult led activities or continue with what they are doing.

Children are happy and very settled at the setting. They are familiar with routines, confident exploring the environment independently and know where resources are and how to access them. They form positive relationships with other children in line with their age and stage of development and make strong attachments with staff who care for them. Children approach staff for support and comfort, and we saw a number of occasions when this took place.

Children are learning to consider the needs of others, share and take turns. They are beginning to play with other children in a co-operative way, and to respect their environment and toys. At snack time, they sit nicely together at the table and wait their turn. They share resources with others, and sit appropriately when engaged in table-top activities.

Children benefit from a good selection of age appropriate play and learning opportunities. They are interested in their play and show curiosity, alongside an ability to play independently for sustained periods. They enjoy adult led activities, but equally enjoy playing on their own with toys of their choosing. We saw children smiling, laughing and joining in activities with enthusiasm.

Children have many opportunities to learn new skills and do things for themselves. They are encouraged to follow their interest and choose toys and activities independently of staff. At snack time, they are encouraged to develop their self-help skills. During play activities, they have time to use various resources to develop their skills, such as colouring, painting, climbing and riding bikes.

Care and Development

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. They are clear about the safeguarding process and the procedures to follow to ensure the welfare of children in their care. They have a knowledge of policies and procedures in relation to accident, incident and administering of medication and maintain appropriate records in these areas. Fire evacuation drills are completed at regular intervals. Smoke alarms are tested, but not currently recorded. Staff are clear about safety procedures for the setting and their responsibilities in relation to infection control, particularly in relation to the current pandemic. They have specific roles in relation to cleaning duties, although there is no consistent system for recording of these tasks. Staff work well together to ensure that there is an effective approach in relation to hygiene practices in the setting and we viewed frequent hand washing and table cleaning. Staff recognise the importance of healthy eating and the setting is involved in a number of healthy eating schemes to promote children's health and wellbeing.

Staff work well together to support and promote children's social behaviour effectively. They are positive role models for children in their care, treating each other and children with respect and kindness. They give consistent praise and encouragement and this fosters a calm atmosphere in the setting. Staff show interest in children's work and are happy to play with children to support their learning and development. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy and staff follow the strategies outlined in it so that practice is consistent and children understand what is expected.

Staff are supportive, nurturing and engage positively with children to support their play and development. There is a system for recording and identifying children's progress and next steps. There is also a system for planning activities to meet children's all-round development. There is a key worker system in operation and this means, where possible, children receive consistent care from an adult who knows them well. During activities, staff are understanding of children's individual needs and allow children the space to follow their interests and choose what they want to do. We saw strong practice in all base rooms, with staff attentive to the needs of children and supportive of their play. Parental involvement is encouraged. Staff often send ideas and work home with children, so parents can continue to support their child's development within the home.

Environment

The environment is safe, secure, and suitable for its purpose. Staff complete daily risks assessment of the premises and there are written risk assessment covering all aspects of the service. Internally, base room are well-ventilated to allow fresh air in, and sufficiently warm, but there is no system for recording daily room temperature checks. Safety certificates are up to date for gas, electrical and fire checks of the premises, although some records were not on the premises at the time of the inspection and sent to CIW following the site visit. The outdoor area is secure for children to play in comfort and children are restricted from accessing certain areas of the nursery to ensure their safety.

The environment is welcoming, well maintained and provides children with zoned areas for different play activities. Children in the pre-school room have easy access to the outdoor play area, which is equipped with a variety of resources. Bathroom facilities are clean and appropriately maintained and the kitchen is also maintained to a good standard. Base rooms are sufficiently spacious, designed with children in mind and afford a good degree of natural light. There is space for children's belongings and displays of children's artwork, giving them a sense of belonging and attachment to the setting.

There is a suitable range of toys and learning materials to meet the needs of children. Resources are organised so that they are accessible to most children and this means that children are able to locate toys independently without assistance from staff. The design and layout of base rooms affords children a good degree of free flow between play areas. There is enough floor space for younger children to move and explore the environment comfortably. Children benefit from furniture and equipment that is appropriate for the age range of children who currently attend the setting. There are some natural and recyclable materials available for children to play with, alongside a good selection of books, small toys and art and craft materials

Leadership and Management

People who run the service have effective systems in place to ensure the smooth operation of the setting. There are appropriate record keeping systems, and arrangements to audit and review key information at regular intervals, for example, in relation to accident records. The statement of purpose provides parents with information about the service so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. There are appropriate policies and procedures in place and reviewed and updated as and when required.

There is an ongoing quality assurance process with evidence from parents, staff, children and stakeholders obtained so that developments and improvements can be actioned and addressed in a timely manner. The annual review of quality of care report is detailed, reflecting evidence gathered during the consultation process from people who use or work at the service.

Management of the service is largely effective with arrangements in place for team meetings. There are opportunities for staff to express their views and give input about changes within the service. There is a system for one to one supervision sessions so staff can discuss their practice and development needs. We found one staff appraisal was overdue, but leaders rectified this matter promptly during the inspection process. There is a clear system for recording staff Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS). There is also a training matrix for renewal of core training with opportunities for staff to complete additional training in their areas of interest. Staff absences are effectively managed by the use of part-time staff or redeployment of staff from a sister nursery. Many staff are long-term employees, so there is a stable staff team who work well together and provide consistent care.

Parents value the service provided and are very happy with the care given. They receive updates about the service on a regular basis and can speak to key workers about their child's progress. Parents are very complimentary about the service and this is evident from the service questionnaires we viewed. Parents stated how happy they are with the management of the service, the staff team and the quality of care given to their children.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Review current record keeping systems in relation to safety records, room temperature checks and cleaning routines.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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Date Published 21/07/2021