



Inspection Report

ChildsPlay Private Nursery

**89 - 90 Commercial Street
Newport
NP20 1LS**



Date Inspection Completed

07/09/2021

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About ChildsPlay Private Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Childsplay Private - Nursery Ltd
Registered places	43
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	12 February 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	<i>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.</i>

Summary

This was a focused inspection. On this occasion, we did not consider care and development, environment or leadership and management in detail.

Children are happy and enjoy themselves at nursery. They build strong attachments with consistent staff who know them well. Overall, children make choices about their care and participate in a greater range of activities that encourage their curiosity and learning. Practice regarding observations, assessments and activity planning are improving. Staff use praise to recognise children's many achievements well and management of behaviour and routines is mostly consistent.

The management and staff team have better understanding of their responsibilities to keep children healthy and safe. There are improved hygiene and hand washing practices and staff apply safety practices more consistently. Most staff have greater knowledge of child protection, the prevent duty and the nursery's fire procedures.

Following the last inspection, the providers have worked hard to create a vibrant and stimulating environment for children both inside and outside. Improved layouts of the playrooms, more resources and introduction of the outdoor classroom enhance children's learning experiences. However, resources for the older children still need improving.

The providers have been proactive in addressing many of the issues raised at the last inspection. Changes to how staff deployment across the nursery is providing more stability. This is having a positive impact on the outcomes for children and staff's enjoyment in their work. However, supervisions and appraisals to monitor staff performance do not take place routinely. Staff complete attendance registers consistently and submit notifications relating to any changes routinely.

Well-being

Children are confident to express themselves during play and daily routines, as they know most staff listen to them. Children ask for help with confidence when they need it. For example, a child approached staff to tell them they were cold and another asked for assistance with their shoes. Children make some choices of what to play with and at set times can select whether to play indoors or outdoors. However, there are restrictions of where some children can play after lunch. Older children have many opportunities to influence the activities provided. In holiday club, they select the topic they want to do and what they would like to cover within the theme.

Children can build strong attachments with staff, as there are consistent staff in each room. As a result, all the children are happy, feel safe and settle quickly. Children show good self-esteem and confidence, smiling broadly in response to the regular positive praise. Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. We saw the toddler children excitedly jump up and down in anticipation of going out into the garden. A group of preschool children had great fun with the animals in the water, laughing raucously as they squeezed the dolphin, spraying water into the air and over each other.

Children work well together with their friends and feel proud of their achievements. A small group of children spent long periods carefully building towers with compressed sawdust blocks and squealed with delight when it tumbled down. Most children respond well to staff's gentle reminders to take turns. Some children asked politely to play in the water tray. When staff asked the children to allow their friends to have a turn in the water, encouragement and suggestions of other activities to play with, helped alleviate children's disappointment. Children know the daily routines and most interact appropriately. However, we saw preschool children sat for long periods waiting for their lunch and for outdoor play, which made them restless. Staff frequently told children to sit down.

Children are developing their independence and individual skills well. They manage their personal care, visiting the bathroom when they need and find their aprons. Children develop their speech and extend their learning effectively as most staff communicate well during play and frequently introduce and model new language. Children in holiday club gain valuable learning opportunities during the topics they cover. In their current jungle theme, learning about jungle animals, life cycles, habitats and layers of the jungle and where in the world jungles are, is interesting them. Useful questioning and encouragement from some staff cleverly extends the children's play and learning. For example, counting the blocks on their tower and comparing sizes. The children are learning some basic Welsh. We heard children in toddlers counting and reciting the days of the week in both English and Welsh.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

All nursery staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. There are improved hygiene and hand washing practices. We saw children wash their hands before snack time and lunchtime. A portable sink in the toddler room also encourages them to wash their hands at other times throughout the day. Gentle reminders and good questioning from staff, such as “*Why do we put our sun cream on guys?*” help protect children’s health. As a result, they understand the importance of wearing their sun hats and putting on sun cream before going outside on sunny days.

Staff have greater understanding of their responsibilities in relation to child protection and the Prevent Duty, to ensure children are safe. They also understand the importance of serving food safely by testing hot food is at a suitable temperature before serving it to children.

Most staff support children’s interactions appropriately by following the nursery’s behaviour management policy. Nearly all staff demonstrate warmth and kindness towards the children and use positive praise regularly, such as “*Well done, clever (child)*” and “*Da iawn*”. Some staff use positive strategies to support children and give gentle reminders about sharing and taking turns. However, this is not consistent across all rooms.

Improvements to the activity planning means there is a greater range of interesting activities that engage and encourage children’s learning both inside and outside. For example, in babies making marks in flour or shaving foam and painting with forks to encourage their hand and eye co-ordination, curiosity and creativity. They ensure they ask older children for their ideas when planning activities for after school and the holidays. There has been some improvements to tracking and monitoring children’s skills and ongoing progress. Some staff complete monthly observations, use photographs and examples of children’s work to show progress made. Updates to these are irregular. Staff identify children’s next steps but these are very basic and do not cover each area of learning and are not used to inform future activity planning.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The providers have made significant improvements to the nursery both inside and outside to enrich children's play and learning experiences. Excellent additions to the garden include the exciting covered outdoor classroom with an abundance of natural and recycled materials. Children helped to plant flowers inside pallets to decorate the garden walls. Artificial grass under a gazebo in the baby garden enables the babies to explore and play comfortably. Effective changes to the organisation of the preschool and toddler rooms means there are clearly defined learning areas that are welcoming, stimulating and promote children's curiosity and learning.

The providers have introduced many new resources across all rooms to ensure there are sufficient in each room. These are better organised and easily accessible to children. Children attending the out of school and holiday club have their own small area within the preschool room to relax, play and have a small range of games and resources.

The providers work closely with the management team to ensure they complete safety checks regularly, such as risk assessments. Every term they ask staff about the procedures in the event of an emergency or fire. A number of staff we spoke to had sufficient knowledge of the fire evacuation procedures but this is not consistent across the team.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The leadership and management team have shown a strong commitment to make a number of improvements following non-compliance at the last inspection. For example, registers are detailed and accurate to show who is present in nursery at any one time. The provider is now compliant. The leadership team have sent in 16 relevant notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales since the last inspection in February 2020. The provider is now compliant.

Significant changes to the deployment of staff is having a positive impact on the outcomes for children and the smooth running of the nursery. Staffing in each room is more consistent as most work full days and no longer move around the nursery. We saw staff work well together and all staff we spoke to are happy and enjoy their job. Staff feel comfortable to approach management with any issues or concerns and feel supported in their role. However, formal staff supervisions and appraisals are still outstanding, which may cause problems if any staff performance matters arise. The provider remains non-compliant.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Review behaviour management practices.

R2. Review daily routines to ensure children do not sit for long periods.

R3. Extend the resources available for children attending the out of school and holiday club.

R4. Improve staff knowledge of the fire procedures.

R5. Develop children's assessments across all rooms to identify next steps across all areas of learning and use this information to inform activity planning.

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

The registered persons have failed to ensure a daily record of the staff's and children's hours of attendance are maintained.	Regulation 30 (1) (b) Sch3.06
The registered persons have failed to notify Care Inspectorate Wales of changes to the service.	Regulation 31 (1) Sch4.03(a)
The registered person must ensure that children have access to hot and cold running water.	Regulation 37 (4) (a)

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

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

The registered person must ensure that all staff receive appropriate training, supervision and appraisal.	
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We found poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's wellbeing. Therefore, we have issued a priority action notice and expect the provider to take immediate steps to address this and make improvements.

Areas where improvement is required

None	
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Date Published 02/12/2021