



Inspection Report

Little Lambs Day Nursery - Pentrebach

**Unit 6
Merthyr Tydfil Industrial Park
Pentrebach
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 4DR**



Date Inspection Completed

04/10/2021

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About Little Lambs Day Nursery - Pentrebach

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	01 September 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service 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 the service.

Summary

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

Children have good opportunities to progress because there is access to a varied selection of play and learning opportunities. They are building positive relationships with their peers and have good relationships with staff who care for them. They are comfortable with the routines of the service and have regular opportunities to develop skills.

Staff understand their responsibilities in relation to children's welfare and recognise the importance of providing children with age appropriate learning activities. There is a system for identifying and recording children's development so that children's progress can be monitored and appropriate support given.

The premises is well maintained and secure. There are effective record keeping systems in relation to health and safety and risks identified and minimised. There is a good standard of décor and rooms are child friendly and well designed.

Leadership and management of the service is effective and records and policies are organised and maintained to a good standard. Quality assurance processes take into account children and parents' views and leaders plan for improvement to move the service forward. Parents are appreciative of the service and receive regular updates on changes and events at the nursery.

Well-being

Children are happy at the service. They have warm and supportive relationships with staff who care for them and seek out staff for reassurance and comfort. Interactions between children and staff are consistently good and children are forming positive relationships with staff who care for them. When younger children were fleetingly unsettled we observed them approach staff who provided immediate and responsive care. We heard children chatting informally to staff and saw that they enjoyed staff participating in activities.

Children are comfortable, relaxed and at ease with routines of the service. At lunchtime, children enjoy sitting together to eat their food and it is a sociable time where both children and staff can relax and chat together. Children play happily together. Younger children enjoy watching and observing others and in line with their age and stage of development cope well with short adult led activities such as storytelling. Older children enjoy solitary play, but equally gain pleasure in small group activities where they share resources and sit together to complete tasks. We noted a small group of children happily using resources and drawing a sketch of their cuddly animal. Other children preferred solitary play with small toys and staff respected their choices.

Children benefit from a good selection of age appropriate play and learning opportunities and are interested in the play activities available. Younger children enjoy exploring their environment and practising their gross motor skills. They enjoy selecting toys and playing small musical instruments. Older children also value the opportunity to play freely and follow their interests, moving confidently between activities of their choosing. They show pride in their achievements and we noted a child, supported by a member of staff, counting the number of blocks in the tower they had built.

Children have continuous opportunities to be independent, follow their interests and make decisions. Older children are encouraged to self-register on arrival at the service and younger children are confident selecting objects independently and choose books without assistance. They are learning to co-operate and staff encourage their involvement in tidying resources away. They are confident to speak out and say what they want, choosing where they sit at lunchtime and deciding what they want to eat and drink, with their wishes respected and acted upon by staff.

Care and Development

Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They understand that they have a duty to ensure children's well-being and safety in relation to safeguarding and their responsibility to report any concerns for children in their care. They recognise the importance of infection control and their duty to follow procedures and ensure that the premises is safe and clean. In light of current circumstances, there are adjustments to staff practices and cleaning routines to ensure that children and staff remain safe. Staff follow the service's procedures in relation to recording of accidents and incidents and maintain records to a good standard. Healthy eating and the promotion of this is recognised and the service participates in a number of healthy eating schemes. Snacks and meals are balanced and nutritional and drinking water is readily available to keep children hydrated. There is a system for recording children's specific dietary requirements at the point of registration and in addition, there is a system for recording allergens in food products.

Staff promote children's behaviour in a positive manner and understand the behaviour management policy and the strategies contained within it. They act as good role models, treating children with care and respect. They are consistent in their responses to children and speak kindly and gently to them. Their interactions with children are positive and they demonstrate warmth when supporting children. They note when children are slightly unsettled and provide nurturing care. We heard staff frequently acknowledge children's achievements and praise them for their efforts.

Staff plan and support children's development effectively. There is continuous activity planning to ensure that play opportunities are appropriate and relevant. In addition, staff are aware of the importance of moving children's development forward and use a variety of methods to identify and record children's progress and plan for their next steps. Staff understand the importance of play and ensure that children have access to a selection of learning and play opportunities to support their learning. Some staff promote the use of Welsh effectively, using basic words and phrases to encourage children's understanding of the language. Staff recognise the importance of children directing and influencing their play and support their choices. For example, during a story telling activity one child was more interested in exploring and looking at toys. Staff supported their choice and the child returned to the group when they were ready to do so.

Environment

The premises are secure and well maintained and visitors are required to sign in and hand sanitize on arrival at the service. There is an organised and well - managed risk assessment file and unnecessary risks are identified and where possible eliminated. There is timely completion of key health and safety checks and records are organised. In addition, there is a clear evacuation procedure for staff to follow.

The environment is spacious, child friendly and the layout is conducive for play and learning activities. The baby room benefits from good natural light and provides sufficient space for younger children to explore in comfort. In addition, there is a dedicated sleep room for relaxation. Refurbishment of toilet facilities is complete and these facilities are of a good standard. The main playroom benefits from good flow to the enclosed outdoor area. The layout of the playroom is well - thought out with zoned areas for different play activities, offering areas for quieter activities and other areas for more energetic play. There is a good standard of décor and there are displays of children's artwork, giving children a sense of belonging and ownership. Resources are accessible to children giving them autonomy when choosing toys. The outdoor area offers good space for physical play activities. There have been a number of improvements including the addition of an awning so that children are able to play outside in all weather.

There is a good selection of age appropriate resources and toys. Younger children have access to interactive toys, musical instruments and books. Older children benefit from a good range of learning and play resources including various types of puzzles and building blocks. There is a sufficient supply of art and craft materials and books, resources for pretend play and large outdoor play equipment for physical activities.

Leadership and Management

Leadership and management of the service is effective and record keeping systems are organised. The statement of purpose provides parents with sufficient information about what the service has to offer. This means that prospective parents can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. There is effective maintenance of daily records and records contain relevant information on children. There is a comprehensive policy file, although we noted that a small number of policies included information on a staff member no longer working at the service.

People who run the service have good systems in place to monitor monitoring and review the nursery. This includes a Setting Improvement Plan identifying areas for improvement in the coming year. In addition to this, leaders consult with children, parents, staff and stakeholders obtaining their views before producing an annual review of quality of care report.

Management of the service is effective. There are opportunities for staff to discuss issues during formal team meetings. Individually, staff can feedback their views on their roles and responsibilities and training needs via formal one to one supervision and annual appraisal meetings. There is effective management of staff absences so that disruption to children is minimised. Feedback from staff questionnaires indicate they are happy with the level of support they receive and the training matrix shows that staff have up to date core training. Extended training for staff is available and a number of staff are due to attend courses in the near future.

There are positive partnerships in place. Parent questionnaires indicate a high level of satisfaction with the service. As part of the inspection, we contacted and spoke to eight parents for their feedback on the nursery. Parents told us that they are very happy with the service and the majority commented on how well their children settled at the nursery. They confirmed that the nursery notifies them of changes and that generally there is very good communication from staff around their child's development.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Update a small number of policies to reflect current staffing.

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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