



Inspection Report

Learn About Childcare

**19 Tynwydd Road
Barry
CF62 8SZ**



Date Inspection Completed

14/03/2023

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About Learn About Childcare

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Karen Simick
Registered places	23
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	8 July 2021
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert] Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Adequate
<u>Environment</u>	Adequate
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are confident, happy and enjoy their time at this nursery. They have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about what they want to do. Children have a strong sense of belonging and are developing positive relationships and friendships. They learn and develop well from the activities and resources provided for them.

Overall, staff implement policies and procedures to keep children safe and healthy. They are kind and caring towards children and provide positive interactions to help them feel happy and secure. Staff are good role models for children and support them well in their play and learning.

People who run the nursery have a good range of policies and procedures in place to support an environment that is suitably safe, secure and well maintained. The environment and resources meet the needs of the children although at the time of inspection, we did not see all areas fully set up as the nursery was undergoing significant refurbishment.

People who run the nursery have a clear vision for the setting and promote a positive ethos. The responsible individual, person in charge and staff work together effectively. One or two elements of the regulations and the National Minimum Standards are not always maintained although people who run the nursery act swiftly on recommendations.

Children have opportunities to make many choices about the things they do within the very flexible routines of the nursery. Older children move between the playroom and messy room and choose from a good range of resources and activities. They are confident communicators as they engage with their friends and approach staff for help or to chat. They know they will be listened to and responded to. Babies can freely explore their environment although during the inspection they had limited resources as the room was due for re-carpeting and most toys and furniture had been temporarily removed.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed at the nursery, they cope well with separation from parents and carers. They form very good bonds with staff and each other. They know and follow the routines of the nursery helping them to develop a sense of belonging, confidence and self-esteem. For example, children arriving from school know where to hang their coats and where to go next to eat their lunch.

Children behave very well; they play cooperatively or alongside each other as is appropriate for their ages and stages. They are learning to concentrate and persevere with their chosen play for appropriate periods of time. For example, a small group of children worked well together for some time to build a train track around the room. There is a friendly and calm atmosphere in the nursery and older children develop friendships well. Small groups and pairs of children played together in role play games such as in the cosy corner where they role played bedtime or pretend cooking in the home corner.

Children enjoy their time at the nursery. They have extended periods of time to choose what they want to do, constructing their own play using the wide range of resources provided for them. Play is not interrupted unnecessarily, and children benefit from flexible snack and lunch times that meet their individual needs whilst still providing social times to chat with their friends and staff. Children also join in enthusiastically with adult led and planned activities such as circle time or making Mother's Day cards. Babies play happily with resources provided for them and join in with adult supported activities such as painting.

Children learn and develop well from the activities and resources provided for them although younger children are occasionally over-shadowed by older ones during group times. They have opportunities to develop their Welsh, although this is mainly during group times. Children have good opportunities to develop their independence and self-help skills. They make many decisions within the day such as when they are ready to eat. They decide what they would like in their wraps for lunch as well as independently managing their personal care, packing up their own lunch boxes or knowing where to put their shoes when they take them off.

Care and Development

Adequate

There is a good range of policies and procedures to keep children safe and healthy which staff understand and mostly implement. However, staff did not recognise a hazard in the environment and only took steps to rectify it when prompted by us. Ensuring all areas are free from hazards was a recommendation at the last inspection, we are therefore issuing an area of improvement and expect the provider to take action. All staff attend regular safeguarding training and staff we spoke with demonstrate an appropriate understanding of their responsibilities to protect children. Staff know who to report concerns to within the nursery, although some lack confidence in who to report to outside the nursery should that be necessary. Registers of attendance are maintained, but do not always clearly indicate staff caring for specific children. The system was amended during the inspection to address this. Appropriate hygiene procedures are in place although some staff do not always follow these. For example, consistently ensuring children wash their hands before eating. Staff are aware of and manage allergies and individual needs. They provide healthy meals and snacks and ensure children spend plenty of time outside in the fresh air.

Staff interact with children in a positive way. They are kind and caring and know children well. There is a suitable behaviour management policy in place which staff follow. They manage minor incidents in line with the policy. For example, encouraging children to use kind hands or offering alternative toys when children want the same thing. Staff offer praise and encouragement and chat easily and respectfully with children and each other, making them good role models. For example, praising children for hanging up their coat or chatting over lunch about what colour peppers they like best.

Staff support children well to learn and develop through their interactions and activities they provide. For example, they chat to children about their pictures as they play with felt pieces and encourage children to count the cars as they push them along a shelf unit. Staff enable children to have lengthy periods of time to become engaged in their play, not interrupting but supporting as needed. Staff have accessed recent training enabling them to begin to develop a more responsive style of planning in line with the Curriculum for Wales. The positive impact of this can be seen in the nursery. Staff identify and support children who may have additional learning needs and access external support when needed. Staff record children's progress and are also working to develop a new way of doing this that works best for them and supports feeding children's learning and development needs into planning.

Environment**Adequate**

People who run the nursery ensure they care for children in a secure environment. There are suitable systems to make sure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and unauthorised people cannot enter. They record visitors to the nursery. People who run the nursery have developed comprehensive risk assessments which they review annually and, overall, are effective. They have also put in place a system of daily checks. However, these do not always identify new or temporary hazards and occasionally do not accurately reflect the checks done. For example, on the day of the inspection visit, the sleep room was recorded as ready for use when it had not been fully set up. The nursery is clean and well maintained with all essential building safety checks carried out as needed. People who run the nursery ensure they carry out regular fire evacuation practices.

Playrooms are welcoming, bright and friendly. There is ample space for children of all ages to play and learn. People who run the nursery are currently refurbishing and re-decorating the premises. The neutral colour schemes contribute to creating a calm atmosphere throughout the nursery. The layout of the pre-school rooms allows children to move about freely and safely. Resources are accessible at the children's level enabling them to independently access a wide range of interesting and age-appropriate toys and equipment. Children's toilets are accessible directly from the playroom, promoting independence for children in managing their personal needs. We did not see the baby room fully set up during our inspection visit. Since the visit, people who run the nursery have sent us photographs to show the good progress they have made. There is a sleep room attached to the baby room which provides a safe and quiet place for children to sleep undisturbed whilst still giving staff easy access to check on them.

Outdoor space is accessible from the pre-school room and staff ensure children of all ages use it regularly. Outdoor resources and equipment promote a variety of areas of learning and development. This play space is also part of the nursery refurbishment programme.

People who run the nursery provide a good range of resources that allow children variety and choice. Furniture, toys and equipment are of good quality and appropriate for the children in the setting. Some resources promote culture and diversity, and the provision of open-ended resources, natural resources and loose parts is being developed well. Toys and equipment are clean and well-maintained.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

People who run the nursery have a good vision for the setting and promote a positive ethos. The registered person is available to support the person in charge in the day-to-day operation of the nursery if needed. There is a good range of policies to support the safe and efficient running of the nursery. There is a clear Statement of Purpose in place that accurately reflects the service offered. The people who run the nursery ensure they have the necessary documentation in place to meet regulations and the National Minimum Standards. They have suitable systems in place to monitor accidents, incidents and any injuries children may have when they arrive at nursery.

People who run the nursery review the quality of their care annually as is required by regulations. They make some evaluation of the impact of their care on children and identify areas of their provision they would like to improve or develop. The person in charge and staff are reflective of practice and are excited about the impact on the nursery of recent and on-going training and changes.

People who run the nursery implement safe recruitment procedures to safeguard children. They hold periodic staff meetings and have a suitable staff supervision and appraisal system in place although some records lack sufficient detail to reflect discussions or targets set. The registered person carries out an annual appraisal with the person in charge and has numerous informal discussions however, these are not recorded. A central log is in place to record and manage Disclosure and Barring Service checks and mandatory training such as paediatric first aid and safeguarding.

People who run the nursery and staff develop positive relationships with parents. They ensure they have relevant information necessary to meet individual needs before children start at the nursery. Parents we spoke to during the inspection visit told us they are very happy with the service provided and their children love coming to the nursery. People who run the nursery also develop good relationship with other professionals and work closely with Flying Start, local schools, health visitors and local authority advisers.

Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
New	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
Reviewed	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
Not Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people’s well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

Priority Action Notice(s)

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

We expect the provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
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25	The registered person must ensure that staff are able to identify hazards in the environment including any that arise temporarily as a result of work being carried out to the premises.	New
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Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 20 - Child protection	Ensure all staff are confident in their knowledge of safeguarding policies and procedures.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure all staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures.
Standard 13 (Day Care) - Suitable Person	Ensure all staff receive regular one to one supervision and records reflect the support given and targets set.

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
Ensure daily risk assessments accurately reflect the checks carried out.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children’s well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children’s well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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