



Inspection Report

Happy Stars Day Nursery

**84 Margam Road
Port Talbot
SA13 2BW**



Date Inspection Completed

13/04/2023

About Happy Stars Day Nursery

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Laura Davies
Registered places	17
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	2 November 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
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.

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Summary

As this was a focused inspection, therefore, we have not considered all the themes in full.

Children are happy and settled within the setting, including new children. They follow their own interests and enjoy their play and learning appropriately. Most children interact suitably with their friends and those caring for them. Many children have suitable opportunities to develop their independence skills.

Staff are attentive and know the children well. Improvements have been made to planning and activities, taking into account the age range and needs of individual children attending. Staff promote children's well-being, care and development sufficiently and plan some activities for children but mostly offer free choice.

People who run the setting are committed to making on-going improvements to the environment to aid children's safety, wellbeing, care and development. Age appropriate furniture have been purchased and natural resources have been introduced at the setting.

Leadership and management of the setting has improved. People who run the setting acknowledge areas which require improvement in order to meet the regulations.

Well-being

Nearly all children have an improved voice, which ensures they have a say in how they spend their time at the setting. Nearly all children are able to make choices about where and what they want to play, allowing them to follow their interests. They move around the environment freely whilst playing indoors and outdoors. Older children enjoy talking to us about what they like to play with. For instance, they like the new natural resources such as the soil for planting activities. At lunch, children asked for certain fruit for snacks the following day so that they can make fruit skewers. Older children complete 'brain buckets'. They hand write what they want to do whilst at the setting and their ideas for activities. Older children spoken to speak positively about the choice of activities on offer.

Children are happy and settled, including new children. They have a good bond with staff, approaching them for comfort and support when needed. Children are busy and engaged, resulting in a calm atmosphere.

Most children interact suitably with their friends and those caring for them. Nearly all children co-operate well. For example, they patiently queue for the slide and climbing frame. They take turns at the rolling snack table, choosing from the fresh fruit and crackers.

Nearly all children enthusiastically enjoy their play opportunities. They have access to new natural and real resources, which are age and developmentally suitable. For example, a group of children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with the sand and water, filling jugs and pouring the water into containers whilst adding various play animals. Children persevered for a good amount of time, using their imagination and adapting their play. Children freely choose from the resources available. One child practised their mark making outside by getting the chinks from the playroom. A group of older children enjoyed the craft activities, helping themselves to the pot of scissors and sharing felt tip pens. Younger children happily and freely explore the floor level toy boxes and the musical instruments.

Nearly all children are developing their independence most of the time. For instance, nearly all children serve themselves at snack and lunch time, using proper cutlery and China crockery. They visit the toilet independently and most put their own coats and shoes on to go outdoors. Younger children's independence is promoted well, they are encouraged to do things for themselves before being supported, such as feeding themselves.

Care and Development

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

Staff have made improvements to promote positive outcomes for children. They are at the early stages of developing and introducing the 'curiosity approach'. They focus on children directing their own play appropriately.

Staff effectively supervise and keep children safe, ensuring routines do not prevent them from being with the children. They ensure that children are cared for in manageable groups in various sections of the setting, undertaking different activities. They follow suitable cleaning routines and keep areas relatively free from hazards. For example, regular hand washing and cleaning of tables is promoted. However, staff do not always encourage children to respect items and take part in tidy up time. Staff have changed the setting's menus and introduced a healthy eating scheme, offering all fresh snacks and meals, which promotes children's health positively. They generally promote children's independence well, such as serving themselves at lunch and putting on their own coats. However, staff on occasions served children their drinks when they are capable of doing these tasks for themselves.

Staff interact well with children and promote their learning and development appropriately. They communicate with them during their play and routines. For example, they chat to them during rolling snack time and discuss what sound a dinosaur makes when stomping in the water. This helps create sociable experiences and supports children's speech and language skills. Staff became involved in children's play when it was appropriate to do so as seen during colour and number activities with the younger children. However, some opportunities to extend children's learning is missed. For example, when children were experimenting with the herbs and spices. Staff organise a variety of craft, construction, experimental and water play activities to develop children's creative and sensory skills suitably.

Environment

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

People who run the setting have made positive improvements to the environment to ensure children are safe. They ensure that all fire doors are kept closed. Radiator panels have been repaired or replaced. The kitchen door is kept closed and the safety gate at the hallway is used when necessary. New carpets have been laid in all play areas and the sleep room. The registered person confirmed that the staff toilet is out of bounds to children. She told us that there are plans to install another toilet in the future which will provide an additional toilet for children. Risk assessments have been reviewed and daily checklist have been completed, ensuring that any risk to children are identified, reduced or eliminated. The registered person monitors the daily checklist system to ensure that it is completed correctly and any required action is identified and taken. Fire safety matters highlighted by the fire safety officer have been or are in the process of being addressed.

People who run the setting have ensured that play areas are better organised and used appropriately. There is a variety of toys, resources and furniture suitable for the ages of children cared for. The registered person has recently invested in natural and real items to replace plastic items such as wood, soil and real household items. She has provided furniture which is of a suitable height for older children and has further developed the outdoor area by erecting a mini greenhouse for planting. People who run the setting have purchased more puzzles, games and experimental resources for older children. They plan to purchase further items such as a height adjustable sand/water tray. Free flow opportunities are provided to most children. Children and babies sleep on appropriate sleep mats or in cots, the baby bouncer is no longer used.

Leadership and Management

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

The registered person has a positive response towards acknowledging the improvements required to meet regulations. They have responded effectively to priority action notices issued at the previous inspection. The registered person and staff are committed to further developing the setting to enhance children's experiences, learning, care and development.

The registered person has a relatively suitable recruitment system. However, one staff employment file was non-compliant as it did not contain all of the required information. Following our visit, the registered person has confirmed that the information required is now held on file.

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
25	The registered person has not ensured that all parts of the relevant premises are free from hazards to the children's safety. Ensure the safety of the premises at all times.	Achieved
20	The registered person failed to promote and make proper provision for children's welfare, care, education and supervision. Ensure children's holistic needs are met at all times.	Achieved

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

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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure that children are encouraged to respect recourses and take part in tidy up time.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure that children's independence is further promoted at all times.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure that opportunities to extend children's learning is always nurtured and encouraged.

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