



Inspection Report

Little Stars Nursery Abercarn

**Unit 7
Darren Drive
Abercarn
Newport
NP11 5AR**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

15/11/2022

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About Little Stars Nursery Abercarn

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Kelly Podmore
Registered places	62
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert] 11 January 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert] 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.

Summary

This was a focused inspection. On this occasion we have not considered the care and development, and environment in detail. These themes will be considered in full at the next inspection.

Children enjoy their time at the setting. They make choices freely about how they wish to play. Babies are developing an understanding and an awareness of the world around them and enjoy exploring their environment. Older children are developing their independence and social skills through their experiences at the nursery.

Practitioners are appropriately qualified and have recently updated their paediatric first aid and allergen awareness training. Some record keeping has not been recorded accurately and this is being addressed by the Responsible Individual (RI) and Person in Charge (PiC). Practitioners develop good relationships with children and communicate well with one another. There are enough practitioners available to maintain ratios and supervise children sufficiently.

People who run the nursery have a Person in Charge (PiC) to oversee the day to day management of the nursery. They monitor staffing levels and records indicate the nursery operates with the correct ratios of staff, caring for children. People who run the nursery have not recorded effectively how they monitor some aspects of the setting: this includes accidents and incidents, identifying and monitoring children's individual health needs and the keeping of thorough care and concerns records. The RI has assured us that improvements in these areas will be made and will be addressed with all practitioners as a priority.

Well-being

Most children are confident to speak and express themselves. They choose the toys they wish to play with or approach practitioners with their requests. Babies are inquisitive and explore their environment confidently. Older children take part in group discussions during story time, developing their communication skills.

Nearly all children have good relationships with practitioners and look to them for support. They separate from parents and carers readily and are eager to start their play. Babies seek out cuddles and reassurance knowing that practitioners will respond appropriately. New babies to the setting play with toys they discover and that interest them. When they become upset, practitioners respond to them promptly. As a result, children settle quickly.

Nearly all children develop their friendships and social skills at the nursery. We saw babies demonstrate spontaneous acts of affection with one another giving hugs and kisses to others as they listened to a story. Nearly all children follow instructions from practitioners readily. For example, a young child listened when reminded not to stand on a chair but to sit on it nicely. They then sat on the chair and happily played with a bead threading frame. We saw children's work celebrated by being displayed on a washing line which encourages a sense of belonging for children.

All children have good opportunities for different types of play as they move around their base rooms. They initiate much of their own play and explore their surroundings. Babies have different areas to discover and enjoy building towers with blocks, exploring soft play, sitting in the wigwam, and playing musical instruments. Older children enjoy listening to stories and have access to a good range of appropriate resources that support their imagination: such as a large inside sand pit, snug area and small world figures.

Nearly all children develop their independence skills well, in line with their stage of development. Older children access toilets and wash their hands independently. Babies are encouraged to feed themselves as finger foods are introduced into their diet and practitioners encourage them to wash their own hands before snack.

Care and Development

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

Practitioners are appropriately qualified and have recently updated their paediatric first aid and allergen awareness training. Most staff have a current safeguarding qualification, but the RI is ensuring this is reviewed for all practitioners. Almost all practitioners know the children well and implement nursery procedures to keep them safe. They provide healthy food to children and understand how to implement safe allergy procedures and how to respond to accidents or incidents. However, some information shared between parents and practitioners is not reflected accurately in some record keeping. Key workers and other practitioners know children's health needs well but, for example, updated information regarding children's allergen status and their progress on the allergen ladder had not been formally recorded.

Practitioners treat children with kindness and respect. Babies sought out practitioners for cuddles and reassurance which was given quickly. We heard practitioners communicate well with their colleagues about children's needs and overall supervision of the children. Practitioners ensure children are supervised during mealtimes and that children are encouraged and praised to develop good manners as practitioners use 'please' and 'thankyou' when assisting children. They encourage children's positive social interactions, for example a practitioner encouraged a child saying "Can you give X a ball as well? Good girl!" and the children then played contentedly.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, but it will be considered in full at the next inspection.

Leadership and Management

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

People who run the nursery have policies and procedures in place to operate appropriately. Some policies do not reflect current practice, as they have updated procedures to manage allergies using visual prompts for nursery staff. People who run the nursery amended their medication policy during the inspection clarifying the administration of children's paracetamol. Daily records are kept of the times that staff and children are at the nursery. These records evidence ratios are being maintained as there are enough practitioners to care for the children present. Practitioners report good morale within the setting and told us managers are supportive and easily available when needed. They confirmed they routinely complete registers for both the children and themselves, and managers plan ahead to ensure enough cover and ratios are maintained.

An area for improvement regarding the self-assessment of the service has not been tested at this inspection as this information has not yet been requested by Care Inspectorate Wales for the next assessment period. This will therefore be tested at the next inspection. At present there are strategies in place to review and improve the service in consultation with parents, practitioners, and the children themselves. We saw that accidents and incident records are completed by practitioners and monitored by managers. However, managers are not formally recording how they respond to this information.

Communication between parents and practitioners is mostly effective. However, some record keeping and sharing of information has not been completed accurately, and the RI has stated that she has undertaken discussions with practitioners to improve upon this.

Recommendations from the previous inspection are ongoing and will be looked at during the next inspection.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R.1. Review the allergen and medication policies to ensure they reflect current procedures.

R.2. Formally record how accidents and incidents are monitored each month.

R.3. Ensure all records are completed promptly and accurately recording parent's comments within documentation to evidence transparent communication, accuracy of information and agreed goals.

R.4. Staff to update their safeguarding training.

R.5. Staff to identify children's individual next steps and use this information to plan activities to promote their development.

R.6. Ensure staff timetable regular outdoor play for younger children.

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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17	The Registered Person has failed to upload her 2021 SASS within given timescale.	Reviewed
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Date Published 09/01/2023