



Inspection Report

The Learning Tree

**Ocean Park
East Moors Road
Adamsdown
Cardiff
CF24 5XH**



Date Inspection Completed

06/09/2022

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About The Learning Tree

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	The Learning Tree Day Nurseries Ltd
Registered places	66
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	24 May 2021
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.

Summary

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion we only considered well-being and care and development in detail.

Children are content and settled within the nursery. They have formed relationships with each other and staff, which helps them feel safe and valued. Children can make some choices about how they spend their time, and they are confident in their environment.

Staff are professional, appropriately qualified and enjoy their work. They are kind, caring and interact well with children. Overall, staff keep children safe and implement suitable routines, policies and procedures. They keep effective records of children's progress.

The environment is, in the main, safe and secure. However, it is not an enriched play and learning environment for children as it is insufficiently resourced and maintained.

Well-being

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

Children have some choice over their activities from the selection made available. Their choice is restricted by the limited resources available for children to access. They are familiar with the daily routines and know what to expect at the setting. When they voice their preferences, this is often listened to, such as a request for a certain type of doll as an activity. Many children feel confident in the setting.

Children are content and settled at the nursery. They have developed reliable relationships with staff and are confident to approach them for guidance or comfort. Children settling in benefit from staff who are warm and considerate of them, providing lots of comfort and encouragement. Children form friendships at the setting in line with their age and stage of development. They play happily together or alongside each other. We saw children enjoy helping to make playdough with staff, as well as dressing up and painting.

Children find some enjoyment in their play and they concentrate on activities for an appropriate amount of time. Children were active and curious throughout the inspection visit. Babies moved freely around their play space, interacting with toys that staff had laid out. Older children enjoyed some activities provided and made some choices over the activities in which they engaged, such as bringing out dressing up clothes and a train set.

Care and Development

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

Staff understand how to keep children safe and healthy. Accidents, incidents and existing injuries are recorded appropriately. Staff make appropriate judgements of risks as they develop, such as preventing children from climbing on to chairs or into elevated tuff tray set-ups.

Staff interact in a kind and caring manner with children. They provide comfort for children who are unsettled, and children readily approach staff for cuddles. Staff know children well and understand their preferences.

Partnerships with parents are valued by the setting. Managers explained that a new, secure, two-way communication app has been introduced to support communication with parents. As well as talking with parents at handover, staff also complete full, daily feedback for parents via the app, detailing aspects such as sleep times, nappies and what the child has eaten, including bottles for babies.

Environment

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

The environment is secure and safe. However, it is not a consistently welcoming play space for children across the nursery, as décor and furnishings are tired and many walls are bare. Whilst children are always active, they are not sufficiently positively occupied and stimulated. This is because there are insufficient resources available to allow staff to fully promote children's skills and development.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme on this occasion.

We did note that appropriate staff are employed in suitable numbers for the ages and needs of children being cared for.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Ensure resourcing and furnishing in all playrooms is adequate for the needs of the children attending.

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