



Inspection Report

Little Acorns

**Crossgates
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 6RE**



Date Inspection Completed

12/01/2022

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About Little Acorns

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Acorns, Crossgates
Registered places	24
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First inspection since registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	Working Towards. The service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Care and Development</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Environment</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	No Rating Required

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

Summary

Children experience a child centred service, which has a strong emphasis upon children directing their own play and learning. Children mostly settle well and look forward to attending. They have opportunities to become independent and develop their skills through a range of planned experiences and play activities. Children form close bonds with each other and staff, making them feel safe and secure.

Staff are well qualified and clear about their responsibilities. They understand how to keep children safe and healthy. They plan for a wide variety of activities, which are interesting and stimulating. There are good systems in place to plan and monitor children's progress. Staff take part in regular training and development activities to strengthen their knowledge base.

The environment is suitable and has benefitted from a recent reorganisation of play areas, which offers improved experiences for children. Staff follow procedures to ensure the environment is safe and suitable, completing risk assessments and daily checks. A good variety of indoor and outdoor toys and resources promote children's all round development.

The leadership and management of the setting is good. The people who run the setting listen to staff and involve them in making decisions. Parents are complimentary, and are happy with the care their children receive. The committee which oversees the setting is proactive and provides support and direction as needed. There are successful partnerships in place with a range of agencies who provide support and monitoring to the service.

Children are able to make their own choices and know staff listen to them. They choose their activities freely and understand they can receive help or support if they ask for it. They are familiar with the daily routines and know what to expect each session. For example, they look forward to circle time and join in with singing favourite songs, which are familiar to them. They are encouraged to voice their preferences and their opinions and receive support to participate and express themselves. Children feel confident and develop good self-esteem, showing satisfaction with the wide range of play and learning resources available to them. Children were keen to invite people to join in with their shopping.

Children are happy, safe and valued within the setting. Settling in sessions are guided by the needs of children and their family, and are extended if needed. Children are beginning to develop friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They have clear bonds of affection with staff who understand their needs and provide consistent care. They approach staff with confidence for comfort and reassurance as needed. They sit closely with staff choosing stories and singing songs, joining in and enjoying the activities, which are stimulating and exciting. Children enjoyed playing on the science table with their dinosaurs swapping models and figures and excitedly making loud dinosaur noises.

Children are starting to share and are helpful, tidying up after games and activities. Nearly all children understand the need to comply with the rules for socially acceptable behaviour and show kindness and respect to others. They are keen to show and talk about their activities and share information about their families and interests with trusted adults.

Most children are developing independence skills appropriate to their age and ability. They use the toilet facilities, wash their hands as needed, and understand the routine of tidying up before snack and when activities change. They choose their own food and drinks and help to clear away after eating. They enjoy the sense of achievement from completing these tasks.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

Staff have appropriate policies and procedures in place to keep children safe and healthy. Safeguarding procedures promote the welfare of children and staff understand their responsibility to be vigilant and to report any concerns. Staff receive regular safeguarding training and keep up to date with all relevant information. Safeguarding files need to be formalised. Regular fire drill practices ensure staff and children are aware of how to leave the building safely and these are planned and recorded appropriately. Staff record all accidents and incidents in detail and the person in charge is in the process of developing a system to evaluate these to identify any trends. All staff have attended paediatric first aid training and are confident to deal with minor injuries. Information relating to children's allergies is shared and accessible to staff. This is regularly updated with information from parents as needed and children are carefully monitored.

Staff interact in a kind and caring manner with the children. They are mindful of the age and stage of development of the children when managing behaviour. Staff distract children who are frustrated or upset and praise children for their efforts. Staff are consistent in their approach and set realistic boundaries for children who understand the reason for the rules. Staff provide comfort for children who are upset and act as positive role models to them. There are clear bonds of affection between children and staff who know each other very well.

Staff are skilled at supporting children's learning and development. Staff carry out observations of children and provide planned activities to support the development of skills. Staff identify any additional learning needs of children and make timely referrals to ensure children receive the appropriate support for their development. Staff use the Welsh throughout the session.

Environment**No Rating Required**

People who run the setting ensure the environment is safe and secure. The environment is welcoming and provides a wide range of good quality resources to promote play and learning. Children are able to access toys easily, which supports their independence. There are sufficient furniture, toys and resources available for the size of the group of children. Resources are appropriate for the stage of development of the children and promote curiosity and discovery. Staff provide children with good opportunities for messy play, exploration and role play activities each day. The layout of the playroom allows children to explore freely and offers suitable age appropriate challenges. All resources are in good condition, well maintained and conform to the relevant safety standards.

Staff complete daily safety checks to identify and eliminate any risks to children's safety. Registers record the times children arrive and leave the premises. People who run the setting ensure staff ratios are maintained at all times. There are risk assessments in place for all areas of the setting which include fire safety, Covid 19 and all children's activities. These are reviewed and updated at regular intervals by the person in charge. People who run the setting keep records of all visitors to the setting although during the Covid 19 pandemic non-essential visitors do not enter the building.

Attention is being given to the outside area and plans to bring them to the standards of the indoor area are underway. We did not see the children access the outdoors during our visit due to the poor weather conditions.

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

People who run the setting manage the service well and understand the need to notify Care Inspectorate Wales of any changes or significant events in line with the regulations and National Minimum Standards. There is a statement of purpose, which provides an accurate picture of how the setting runs. The person in charge updates this document to reflect any changes as needed. The responsible individual and the management committee keep in close contact with the persons in charge to exchange information as needed. The person in charge provides regular supervision sessions to the staff and also carries out observations of their practice. The person in charge is well-supported by partners of other agencies.

People who run the setting work hard to promote safe practices. They provide focused policies and set clear aims to meet children's needs. They actively support staff to provide suitable care provision to children and their families. The staff team are enthusiastic and motivated and enjoy their work. The individuals within the team complement each other and work together well. Appropriate checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children are carried out before they take up their post. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to make sure children are well cared for at all times.

A culture of continuous professional development exists within the setting. All staff have completed safeguarding, first aid and food safety training as well as a range of additional learning. People who run the setting are keen to continually improve the quality of the setting and there is an action plan outlining work planned.

Partnerships with parents are good. Parents receive information through social media, although all parents are welcome to arrange to meet with the person in charge or their child's key worker.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. To continue to develop the outdoor space and encourage free flow.

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

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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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