



Inspection Report

Holywell Playgroup

**Holywell Youth Building
North Road
Holywell
CH8 7TQ**



Date Inspection Completed

14/12/2022

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About Holywell Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Provider	Holywell Playgroup
Registered places	24
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert] This is the first inspection since re registration
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>	Excellent
<u>Care and Development</u>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children are calm yet highly active and curious learners and enjoy making choices about what they want to play with. Interactions between children and those caring for them are exceptionally good. Children are interested and keenly engaged in their activities. Children's opinions and interests are extremely valued and acted on. They have high levels of confidence and learn through a range of interesting experiences with outstanding support from their individual carers.

Staff focus exceptionally well on the interests of the child, their individual needs and development. They are completely led by children's choices and decisions. They nurture the children's play highly effectively. Staff interact highly positively demonstrating warmth and kindness. They are extremely skilled and sensitive communicators bringing both language and feelings naturally into the play.

Attractively organised areas are set out and children move freely extending their play, explore and make their own choices about what they want to do. The two rooms are used well and are light, bright, and well maintained throughout. Staff ensure outdoors, easily accessed is equipped with ample resources for children to enjoy play outside which provide good opportunities for learning and developing different skills.

People who run the setting have established a team of staff who work together superbly well and support each other in providing highly effective play and care for the children. They have built positive partnerships with parents and close working relationships with other professionals such as health visitors and Flying Start which benefit the children and their families and are highly effective.

Children are highly active and curious learners and enjoy making choices. Children even those with limited speech express themselves well as their wants, moods and needs are considered. They are confident about what they want to do and come to show us what they are playing with and share a giggle when they are wearing safety goggles. Their faces show how much they enjoy coming to play and they decide confidently which activities they want to play with. For instance, some children wanted staff to play with construction blocks while others were happy and relaxed just talking to staff while painting.

Children are exceptionally familiar with the staff and their individual carers and the daily routine whilst at the setting, and this gives them a happy feeling. For example, a smiling child reminded us it was story time. Children are calm and depend on their carers absolutely and this provides a high level of security and relaxation. They sit alongside staff and approach them with ease for a cuddle or to proudly show what they have made. Children interact positively and they help one another to tidy up their toys and equipment carefully. Children listen well, for example when they are invited to come to the table for snack.

Children are busy and enjoy choosing what they want to play with. They interact exceptionally well for their ages, for example, they wait for each other when it is time to wash their hands for snack. Children proudly show us their photo on the wall which they remove to put in a basket to sign in for snack. They point out the photos of their friends and help each other to reach the food on the table by pushing the plates closer. They are kind and happily share toys with their friends. Children learn through play. For example, there are plenty of smiles and laughter when they show how they are 'repairing the resources with their tools'. They carefully sit on the sofa or get comfortable on a rug to listen to a member of staff, joining in with the story. They snuggle close to staff for reassurance when there is an exciting part of the story.

Children are developing their independence positively. They do things for themselves with highly positive encouragement from staff. They go to the bathroom and are keen to wash their hands after a messy activity and before eating. Children put their cups and plates into a washing up bowl and their left-over snack into a recycling bin themselves. Children follow their own interests, for instance, a child enjoys quietly looking at books and chatting to staff. Many take great interest and show excitement when a parent arrives, keen to see who is being collected.

Care and Development

Excellent

Staff understand their role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy exceptionally well. They have a good understanding and experience of safeguarding procedures and implement the policies effectively. First aid and safeguarding training is current and staff complete accident and incident records and keep parents informed. Staff promote healthy practices and ensure children have plenty of opportunities to play outdoors. Staff conduct fire drills to make sure everyone knows what to do if they must leave the premises in the event of an emergency.

Staff focus exceptionally well on the interests of the child, their individual needs and development. For instance, staff provided a child with an opportunity to do construction when they did not want to join their friends sitting comfortably listening to a story, showing staff are completely led by children's choices and decisions. They nurture the children's play highly effectively and support them extremely well. Although they have an idea of what the children are going to do, they simply suggest and facilitate and provide resources and let the children decide what to create and how to do it. This approach works highly effectively as the possibilities and learning opportunities are endless for the children. Staff interact highly positively demonstrating warmth and kindness. They sit on the floor, or low chairs to be always at the children's level. They are highly skilled and sensitive communicators bringing support naturally into the play. Staff nurture the children's feelings as an integral part of their play. They are consistently responsive to children; and as a result, staff enjoy an outstanding relationship with children in their care. They give plenty of praise and encourage children to find out and explore for themselves for example by standing on a low level rung of the playhouse to carry out 'repairs' on the roof.

Staff know the children extremely well and meet their individual needs highly effectively. They show great interest in what the children tell them about their families and what they are doing at home. Staff gently encourage children to learn and develop their curiosity and thinking skills highly effectively. They listen well and when children are not ready to take part in snack time yet, then this is respected. Staff suggest alternatives and gently intervene to help a child cross a mat full of bricks by taking their arm to support their balance. Staff join in games such as sand play amid gentle smiles.

Environment

Good

Staff provide a safe and clean environment where children can play and learn positively. The setting must pack away all their resources after every session and make it available again before children arrive. Risk assessments are completed and the people running the setting make sure everyone understands their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. Staff supervise children well during their activities and cleaning routines and hygiene practices ensure children are kept safe.

Two rooms provide an ample space for the children to play indoors and develop their independence as well as their physical skills. Attractively organised areas are set out and children move freely extending their play, explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. There are suitable facilities including toilets, a kitchen, and a store cupboard. The environment is light, bright, and well maintained throughout. Storage in the rooms is good with low level shelving to allow children to be independent and develop their own play. Furniture of different sizes enables children to work at a variety of levels, however most activities are set out on the floor with comfortable and cosy areas making easy access for all children.

Staff provide children with a suitable quantity of interesting and well-maintained resources. Areas of play and learning promote children's imagination. There are plenty of natural resources available that enhance children's curiosity and play experiences. Staff ensure outdoors, is equipped with a good range of toys and resources for children to enjoy being outside and developing skills on different pieces of equipment. Staff ensure children learn about recycling as they put any unwanted food from snack into a recycling bin and put their unwanted milk or water in a large jug. Staff raise children's awareness about the world around them and help them learn about their wider society through resources and storytelling.

Leadership and Management

Good

The people running the setting have written a statement of purpose, which provides parents with the required information about what the setting offers. Effective policies and procedures are in place and are regularly reviewed.

There is an effective system to evaluate the setting and care provided. People who run the setting collect views and feedback as part of the evaluation of the setting. They review and make plans for changes and improvements that will benefit the children. For example, they are keen to develop areas outdoors and provide additional resources to enhance children's play and learning. We received written confirmation that all recommendations from the inspection have been swiftly actioned. This shows a commitment to improving practice and reflects the importance of providing the best care for the children.

People who run the setting have established a team of staff and individual carers who work together superbly well and support each other in providing highly effective play, care, and support for the children. Staff are very happy and feel they are exceptionally well supported. Staff supervisions and appraisals allow them to share information and identify potential training. The recruitment procedure ensures all required information is available to evidence the suitability of staff to care for children.

People who run the setting have good partnerships with parents. They keep them informed of their child's day and what they have enjoyed. They take plenty of time to chat to parents when they come to collect their children. Handover was unhurried and staff gave parents plenty of information about their child's morning. Close working relationships with the local school and professionals such as Flying Start, and health visitors highly effectively support and benefit the children and their families. Local amenities provide effective opportunities for children to learn about the world around them.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

None

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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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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