



Inspection Report

Puddleducks Playgroup @ Plas y Felin

**Plas-y-Felin Junior School
Lewis Drive
Churchill Park
Caerphilly
CF83 3FT**



Date Inspection Completed

07/10/2021

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About Puddleducks Playgroup @ Plas y Felin

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Person	Isabel Easterbrook
Registered places	17
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	13 March 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No the service does not provide the Active Offer of the Welsh language

Summary

This is a focused inspection undertaken during the Covid19 pandemic. We have therefore, looked at the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children settle well into the service which is child centred and welcoming. They have supportive relationships with the care staff, form close bonds with them and with other children. They are able to make choices and decisions about their care and play and feel safe and secure with the familiar daily routines. Children have some opportunities to become independent and develop their individual skills through a good range of experiences and play.

The care staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. They have effectively implemented new policies and procedures in response to Covid19. There is a wide variety of activities which are interesting, stimulating and capture children's imagination. Children's progress is recorded appropriately and activities are planned to ensure children's individual developmental needs are met.

The environment is welcoming, well-resourced and supports children's play and learning. An appropriate range of toys and resources promote children's all round development. Some improvements are in the planning stages. This relates to the outdoor area and the main playroom.

The service is mostly managed appropriately. Some documents require reviewing and updating. This includes risk assessments to ensure all hazards are clearly identified for the environment and all activities. Parents are mostly complimentary of the setting and the leaders have built positive partnerships with the school and other agencies.

Well-being

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

Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions and are aware of the options open to them. For example, when deciding where they want to play and activities available to them. They move around easily and select from the toys and resources which are in their reach. Children enjoy their play with a variety of preferred items. This includes craft and painting, sometimes using items they have collected such as leaves, twigs and flowers. We saw children painting teddy bear faces to use as masks as part of the Goldilocks theme. They were pleased to position facial features on the masks successfully. Children play musical instruments enthusiastically and enjoy role play in their play house. They have favourite items and can access all resources easily. Children know what to expect each session and are familiar with the daily timetable of events.

Children communicate their needs effectively and know from experience they will be heard and their preferences taken into account. This helps children to feel comfortable and secure. They express their opinions with confidence. Children receive praise and compliments from the staff for their efforts. They receive encouragement to develop interests. Most children are very keen to play outside in the outdoor play area and value the free flow access to the garden. Children play together in the sand pit and with the water activity.

Children's emotional needs are well met and they have clear bonds of affection with the care staff. They are comfortable and relaxed within the service and feel a sense of belonging and attachment. Children's work is displayed on the wall as well as photos of their families. They are pleased to show visitors these photos.

Children are encouraged to do as much as possible for themselves in preparation for going to school. They help to tidy up, feed themselves and are learning to put on their own coats. They pour their own drinks and help themselves to food. Children know they can ask for support if needed, receiving satisfaction from completing tasks successfully.

Care and Development

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

Staff implement systems to ensure children are safe and well cared for. All staff undertake safeguarding training and understand the process to refer any concerns to the appropriate authority for investigation.

Staff have recently completed the Healthy Early Years Scheme award. This scheme introduces activities to create positive health benefits to children and families. It promotes healthy nutrition, active play and wellbeing in the physical environment. The emotional and mental health of children is also a priority. Staff choose activities to help children enjoy the natural environment which include regular walks outside to the local woods. They have good opportunities for active play with yoga, dancing and playing on the slide and equipment in the garden area.

Staff ensure accidents are recorded appropriately and parents are usually provided with a copy of the accident report. The person in charge monitors the incidence and reasons why accidents happen.

Staff carry out observations of children to assess their progress. Each child has a development profile and journal and some children have play plans to ensure their individual needs are met. There are good working arrangements with outside agencies who are able to provide additional specialist support when needed.

Environment

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

People who run the setting have some systems in place to ensure the environment is safe, secure and welcoming. Staff complete daily and weekly safety checks to identify and where possible eliminate any risks to children's safety. There are risk assessments in place for the environment and outings which need to be used as working documents. These require regular reviewing and updating. There is a secure system for entry to the service and a record of visitors. Registers record the times children arrive and leave the premises. People who run the service ensure they complete safety checks regularly. This includes portable electrical equipment, the heating system and fire equipment.

People who run the setting have plans to improve the environment which include the purchase of additional storage cupboards and the removal of extra resources from the cloak room. This also includes the development of the outdoor area with new artificial grass and an outdoor shelter. During our visit staff removed a thick rug from the floor to prevent children from tripping.

Leadership and Management

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

People who run the setting are experienced and manage the service adequately. There is a clear statement of purpose in place which provides an accurate picture of how the service runs and this has been recently updated. The registered person is also the deputy person in charge and provides daily support to the person in charge and her team. They are a close unit and support each other on a day to day basis.

People who run the setting ensure staff have the required level of qualifications and receive regular training and updates. They ensure good staff ratios are in place at all times. During the inspection there were seven children and four members of staff.

The people who run the setting are working to ensure all parents are clear about how to contact the service. This includes the use of social media and by telephone.

Parents are mostly happy with the service and five parents gave positive comments about the quality of the service, including management of accidents. The person in charge provides assistance to some parents to complete specific forms for example for the Child Care offer. Parents value this help. Parents receive individual invitations to meet with the person in charge if they have any issues to discuss which affect their child. A number of parents take up this offer when needed.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Review and update all risk assessments at regular intervals and ensure all staff are familiar with the contents

R2. Confirm the methods of communication between the service and parents to ensure all parents are clear.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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Date Published 26/11/2021