



Inspection Report

Acorns Parc Nantgarw

**Coleg Morgannwg
Heol yr Odyn
Nantgarw
CF15 7QX**



Date Inspection Completed

01/03/2023

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About Acorns Parc Nantgarw

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Acorns Nurseries Ltd
Registered places	72
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	16 July 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates 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>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at Acorns Nursey, Nantgarw. Their happiness and needs are the driving force of this setting. Children are highly motivated and engaged in their play and learning. Children's independence is consistently encouraged throughout their time at the nursery.

Staff consistently implement policies and promote physical activities, personal safety and wellbeing. Staff positively praise children for perseverance and good behaviour. They are committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities for all with an appropriate balance of child and adult led opportunities.

The environment is welcoming, safe and immaculately clean. There is excellent indoor play space for children to move freely. People who run the setting ensure that the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is an extension to the learning environment. Children have access to a wide range of excellent quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources.

Leadership and management of the setting is excellent. The management team is strong and passionate about providing an outstanding service. There is an extensive range of policies and procedures to support the running of the service which are updated regularly. Parents we spoke to were extremely happy with the level of care provided to their children and families.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at Acorns Nursey, Nantgarw. Their happiness and needs are the driving force of this setting. Children are confident communicators and all attempts at communication are valued and actively encouraged. They confidently engage with their friends and staff. Some children felt comfortable to chat and involve us in their play and learning. Children's opinions and needs are highly valued, acted upon and continually reviewed. Children's voices are strong at the setting.

Children cope extremely well with separation because efficient and thorough daily transitions fully recognise and support individual needs and are effectively implemented. They form positive emotional attachments with staff and each other. We saw them comfortably turn to staff for support. For instance, children new to the setting received focused care and attention to help them quickly settle and a child who was worried that his painting had ripped received reassurance and help to fix it. Children are happy at this setting, we saw children smiling, laughing, and enjoying themselves. They have a strong sense of belonging and are very familiar with the routines of the day.

Interactions between children and staff are consistently stimulating and children cooperate enthusiastically. Children are encouraged to freely express themselves and 'join in' during circle time sessions across age groups. We saw children rewarded with applause and genuine delight by staff who were enjoying and supporting the children's efforts.

Children are highly motivated and engaged in their play and learning. We saw children take part in a range of stimulating activities such as exploring daffodils with magnifying glasses and creating pictures to reflect their findings. They show good concentration skills and join in with activities on offer to them enthusiastically. They benefit from an excellent variety of age-appropriate play and learning resources. Children are independent in making choices of what they wish to play with. We saw children eagerly choose activities from the varied selection on offer to them.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop independence. At lunchtime the progression of children's skills is clear. Younger children are encouraged and supported in feeding themselves while older children ably pour their own drinks and proudly use serviettes. Children confidently access resources and activities, and they are given opportunities to plan, develop and evaluate concepts which are of interest to them.

Care and Development

Excellent

Staff implement procedures to a very high standard to keep children safe and promote their development and well-being. They have a clear understanding of the safeguarding procedures and their responsibilities to keep children safe and report any concerns. Staff have a thorough understanding of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They are confident in recording accidents and incidents. The Person in Charge (PiC) evaluates accidents and incidents to identify any trends and to monitor where and how these are happening throughout the setting. The action taken following evaluation is not always recorded however. Healthy eating is given high priority and menus evidence the provision of healthy meals and snacks. Children are encouraged to wash their hands independently before their food is served. Staff ensure children have access to daily outdoor play experiences, offering them the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air. Staff practise regular fire drills with children so that they know what to do in an emergency. There are in-depth, comprehensive policies in place, which are regularly reviewed.

Staff fully understand the behaviour management policy and consistently implement positive behaviour strategies. We heard staff positively praise children for perseverance and good behaviour. Staff use an array of behaviour management techniques including distraction and negotiation. They are calm, kind and patient in their interactions with children. They carefully observe children and are quick to respond to situations which may cause upset and put appropriate systems in place as a result. Staff act as excellent role models, consistently using the language associated with good manners. We heard staff sharing information with each other about how well some children were settling and whether younger children were ready for sleep. They have good relationships and communicate well with each other. This ensures children are appropriately supervised and supported throughout the day.

Staff are consistently responsive. They make every effort to genuinely listen and communicate with the children. We saw staff using sign language to ensure that all children fully engage with the activities and routines of the day. Interactions are positive, demonstrating warmth, kindness and patience. Staff take time to make sure that their interactions are meaningful and beneficial to the children in their care. This is a real strength of the setting. Staff are committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities with an appropriate balance of child and adult-led opportunities.

Staff recognise when children may have additional needs. They take purposeful action and make effective use of the comprehensive inhouse support available. Robust systems are in place to monitor and identify any emerging or additional learning needs children may have. Staff work well with outside agencies to support children and show determination in ensuring there are no barriers to play and learning. People who use the nursery told us, *"Staff go out of their way to keep my (child) happy. They comfort them, make them laugh and make them feel completely safe which is most important."*

Staff promote the Welsh language often, using simple phrases, singing songs and rhymes throughout the day.

Environment**Excellent**

The premises are warm, safe and maintained to a very high standard. The entrance is secure and locked doors ensure only authorised access is granted by members of staff. In-depth, comprehensive risk assessments are in place for the premises, equipment and activities carried out. Staff keep children safe by completing daily safety checks of the environment to identify and where possible eliminate risks to children's safety. Identified hazards are attended to quickly. The indoor and outdoor environments are secure and provide a good space for children to play and learn. Staff clean throughout the day, but this is further enhanced by inhouse housekeeping staff who uphold exemplary standards. The setting is immaculate throughout and exceptional infection control practices successfully minimise any risk to children's health and safety.

People who run the setting ensure the environment has excellent indoor play space for children to move freely. The space is organised, calming, inviting and child friendly. Children's work is displayed along with pictures of children's families and pets which strengthens children's connection to the space. Staff ensure the environment meets the children's needs and enables them to reach their full potential. They use the space flexibly. For example, older children were moved to a different base as this benefitted them and gave them more space. People who run the setting ensure that the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is an extension to the learning environment. Quality outdoor resources and play equipment, challenge, and stimulate children's curiosity and interest. People who run the setting have plans in place to further develop the outdoor area by providing an outdoor classroom. This addition will impact positively on children's ability to use the outdoor space even in poor weather.

People who run the setting provide a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources to ensure children have good variety and choice. They provide stimulating and innovative resources for all ages and stages of development, which contribute to the children's all-round development. For example, through construction play, sensory activities, small world and creative activities. The setting has suitable furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs and low-level toy storage, suitable for the ages of all children within the nursery. There are a suitable number of children's toilets and nappy changing facilities available, which are very clean and well maintained. Soap and hand drying facilities are easily accessible to support children's independence when addressing their personal care.

The management and leadership of this setting is exemplary. Leaders have a strong vision for the service that they confidently share with others. There is a real feeling of '*teamwork*' which starts at the top and was consistently observed in the working relationships between all staff. Staff that we have spoken to during this inspection have spoken positively about the support they receive in their roles and have said they have, '*Open relationships with managers.*' The statement of purpose is very thorough, clear and accurately reflects the service provided to children and their families.

People who run the setting ensure that documentation is well organised and easily accessible. Staff files are thorough and all relevant safety checks are completed to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. There is a detailed quality of care report in place which celebrates the nursery's achievements and helps plan for future improvements. Clear targets are set which reflect current best practice. The report considers the views of children, staff and parents.

There is a clear system in place to easily identify that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. Staff have up to date mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. There is a culture of continuing professional development. Regular supervisions and annual appraisals ensure that staff can identify and request further training. Some training is run inhouse and reflects current best practice. For example, leaders have focused on the New Curriculum and successfully embedding this into their practice. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to ensure children are well always cared for.

Excellent links have been developed between staff and parents. Parents we spoke with told us that they were extremely happy with the care provided to their children. There are excellent forms of communication between the nursery and parents including detailed daily verbal feedback. People who use the service told us, "A fantastic nursery with lovely staff who go out of their way to make sure your children are happy. I love the fact that we get photos of them doing the activities so we can see what they are getting up to during the day.'

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Record the action taken following analysis of incidents / accidents.

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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