



Inspection Report

Little Stars Pre-School

**Hay-on-wye Cp School
Oxford Road Hay-on-wye
Hereford
HR3 5BT**



Date Inspection Completed

11/07/2023

About Little Stars Pre-School

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Letitia Jones
Registered places	37
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	8 November 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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.

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Summary

This was a focused inspection, and, on this occasion, we only considered well-being, care and development and leadership and management.

Children have a strong voice. They confidently cooperate with staff about their needs and preferences. Children feel safe, happy, valued, and interactions are positive. They engage with politeness and are kind to others. Children enjoy their play and learning opportunities. They develop very good independence skills.

Staff keep children safe and healthy. They ensure children are supervised well and have good knowledge and understanding about safeguarding procedures. Staff manage interactions positively. Their interactions with children are warm, calm and courteous. Staff effectively promote children's play, learning and development and meet their individual needs.

Leadership and management of the setting is organised. Those running the setting have a clear vision for the future. People running the setting have good systems in place to ensure safeguarding and child protection is a priority. There is a good working ethos between the staff. Partnerships with parents and carers are good.

Well-being

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

Children have a strong voice. They confidently cooperate with staff about their needs and preferences. For example, children chose books for staff to read to them. Children choose their resources freely. They help themselves to toys, such as kitchen role play, mud kitchen, small world play and construction play indoors and outdoors.

Children feel safe, happy, and valued. They arrive and settle happily and feel comforted by familiar staff who give them cuddles. As children arrive at the setting, they immediately choose the toys and areas of play and happily engage with peers and staff. Children are proud of their achievements. They eagerly show staff their colouring work, saying “*Superman!*” with staff recognising and praising children for their good work. Children feel safe within their environment. Older children confidently move freely between indoors and outdoors. Children feel a sense of pride in their achievements. They smile as they are told they have done a ‘good job’ building a house with construction blocks. Children feel secure with staff. They are given their comforters when they fall over and at times when they are tired and need to sleep.

Interactions are positive. Children engage with staff politely. For example, at a very young age children thanked staff for telling them they have done well with their colouring work. Children listen to instructions, as they respond to staff who told them to be careful not to throw the toy animals. Children cooperate well. They play alongside each other sharing the mud kitchen and role play resources successfully.

Children enjoy their play and learning opportunities. They happily engage in small world play with toy people, cars, farm animals and houses. Children are excited about their opportunities. Younger children place coloured sensory materials on each other’s head’s and laugh as they play peek a boo. Older children excitedly played with toy cars and ride their bikes. Children listen attentively to staff. They enjoy listening to stories about animals, colours and ‘Paddington Bear’. Children excitedly jump up and down as they enjoy chasing bubbles and move to music.

Children develop very good independence skills. From a young age, children copy staff who model counting to ten in Welsh. Children show they are capable of meeting their own personal needs. They put their own shoes on and wash their own hands with liquid soap independently after toileting and after being outdoors. Children show good physical and fine motor skills. They ride balance bikes, hold pencils, and play with playdough imaginatively, shaping and cutting dough to make different animals.

Care and Development

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

Staff keep children safe and healthy. They ensure children are supervised well. Staff show a good understanding of child protection policy and safeguarding procedures. They responded confidently to potential safeguarding and child protection scenarios. All staff have current safeguarding training. Pre-existing injuries and injuries are recorded and dated. However, not all accident forms are signed by parents and the details for pre-existing injuries are minimal. Daily risk assessments are completed by staff, and these are recorded. They ensure that all areas indoors and outdoors are securely locked. Staff enhance children's hygiene skills by encouraging them to wash their hands after playing outdoors.

Staff manage interactions positively. Their interactions with children are warm, calm, and courteous. Staff are considerate towards the children. They give children cuddles as they arrive and at times when they need comfort. Staff respect children's needs, allowing children to have their comforters with them. Staff enhance the self-esteem of children. They praise children for colouring, sharing and being kind. Staff reminded children of 'kind hands' as they got a little excited whilst playing.

Staff promote children's play, learning, development and meet their individual needs well. They act on children's preferences and plan activities and resources suitable for them. Staff monitor and assess children's progress termly, ensuring their next steps are identified regularly. Staff enhance children's counting and language skills by singing nursery rhymes, identifying colours in Welsh and English, naming animals during construction play and whilst reading books with children.

Leadership and Management

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

Leadership and management is organised and there is a clear vision for the future running of the setting. The statement of purpose has been updated and reflects current practice. There are sufficient staff to support the number of children attending the setting, therefore children's needs and staffing ratios are met. There is a child protection and safeguarding policy which complies with regulation and most recent guidance. Those running the setting ensure all staff are aware of the policies and procedures in relation to the setting. They ensure all staff have suitable induction and training, and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current.

There is a good working ethos between the staff. They are happy at the setting and have a good relationship with the person running the setting. Those running the setting engage with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). They have informed CIW of recent changes to staffing, before and during the inspection. Those running the setting ensure staff receive regular supervisions, which include wellbeing, training priorities and targets for future improvement. The appraisals for staff are yet to be updated and will be viewed at the next inspection therefore, the area for improvement will remain in place. Mandatory training is prioritised. Staff meetings are conducted regularly, and safeguarding practices and procedures are discussed in every meeting.

Partnerships with parents and carers are very good. There is a social media platform used to inform parents of changes to the setting. Parents and carers are informed of children's daily needs and activities through a webform app, where photographs of daily activities and needs are shared. Those running the setting informed us that reports are created informing parents and carers about their child's development.

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
22	Staff are not confident in safeguarding reporting procedures and the setting's safeguarding policy does not meet regulatory requirements. Ensure all relevant information is included in the safeguarding policy and that staff know who to contact if they have concerns about children in their care.	Achieved

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
29	Staff who look after children do not receive formal annual appraisal. Ensure all staff receive annual appraisals.	Reviewed
15	The statement of purpose does not provide all required and accurate information about how the setting currently operates. Ensure that the statement of purpose is amended and up to date at all times.	Achieved

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 6 - Working in partnership with parents	Ensure records of incidents and accidents are signed by parents and carers; and records of pre-existing injuries include information in relation to the causes of the injuries incurred.

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