



Inspection Report

Little Lambs Day Nursery

**St Asaph Avenue
Kinmel Bay
LL18 5EG**



Date Inspection Completed

04/07/2024

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About Little Lambs Day Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Samantha Maitland-Price
Registered places	68
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	6 November 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This is a service that 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>	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 are happy, settled and confident in their surroundings. They make friends and have formed strong, positive bonds with the staff and confidently express their views and preferences. Children thoroughly enjoy the activities available to them. They are curious learners and are naturally motivated to explore their environment.

Staff have an excellent understanding of the setting's policies and implement them effectively to promote children's health and safety. They are very knowledgeable about children's individual needs and ensure they are met effectively through a wide range of interesting and highly stimulating activities. Staff use highly effective procedures to manage interactions positively and promote children's social skills.

People who run the setting ensure children are cared for in a safe and welcoming environment where risks are managed effectively. The extensive range of toys and resources are of excellent quality and offer ample opportunities for children of all ages to explore their senses and learn about the world around them. The outdoor environment enables extensive opportunities for children to use their senses and develop their physical skills.

People who run the setting use innovative methods to ensure staff are highly motivated and supported to carry out their roles effectively. They provide excellent opportunities and activities to enhance children's and parent's well-being. Extremely positive partnerships are formed with parents and the local community, which are beneficial for all involved.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children are very happy and settled and have formed close bonds with staff. They approach staff for cuddles and reassurance when they need it, knowing that this will be provided promptly and without question. Children move freely around the available activities and choose how to spend their time at the setting. They are confident to express their wants and needs to staff and know their wishes and individual preferences will be respected throughout their time at the setting. For example, children can choose to sleep whenever they are tired and not during set nap times.

Children clearly feel secure in their surroundings. They are confident to approach visitors to talk about what they are doing. They are highly confident when expressing their views and sharing experiences with staff, knowing staff will show great interest in what they have to say. For example, they chat to staff about their interests and their plans for the weekend, smiling when staff actively listen intently and ask questions. Children are extremely eager to share their achievements and involve staff in their play as they know they will respond with enthusiasm. For example, while taking part in sensory water play, children smiled and enjoyed pretending to make lemonade with staff.

Children interact well together and form strong friendships with other children. For example, children worked effectively together to create a tunnel and tracks for the toy vehicles. They helped each other choose some of the junk modelling materials and discussed where to place different parts of the track. Younger children also co-operate well with each other during play and respond positively to staff instruction. For example, while playing outdoors they are happy to wait their turn, to climb the ladder and use the slide with a few simple prompts from staff.

Children are highly motivated to explore their environment and thoroughly enjoy taking part in the activities on offer. For example, a group of children enjoyed creating dragons using junk modelling and craft materials. They concentrated well on this activity, manipulating the objects effectively before using the paint to add colours before excitedly showing staff the dragons they had created. Another group of children enjoyed spending time creating artwork using paint in water pistols. They had lots of fun creating different patterns by spraying the paint onto the canvas and experimenting with different colours. Lots of laughter, cheering and happy chatter ensued during these activities as children excitedly showed staff and their friends what they were doing.

Children are encouraged and supported to do things for themselves. Older children complete self-care tasks independently, with support provided if needed. Babies are able to practise self-feeding during lunchtime with plenty of time and space given to do so independently. Children are all happy to help tidy up at the end of activities. They are able to lead and direct their play and choose resources as they wish as toys and activities are stored in a way, which enables children to access them easily and independently.

Care and Development**Excellent**

Staff are highly confident regarding their duties to protect children; they have received training on safeguarding children and their knowledge is also updated regularly during team meetings and staff supervision sessions. Staff we spoke with during the inspection visit, confidently explained the safeguarding procedures and the correct steps to follow should they have a concern about a child. Records show staff ensure children regularly practise how to exit the premises quickly and safely by means of regular fire drills. Plenty of staff have completed paediatric first aid training and accidents and incidents are well documented and sent immediately to parents via an online communication platform along with photographs of their child's injury. Staff encourage healthy lifestyles by providing plenty of opportunities for physical activity and for children to spend time outdoors in the fresh air. Each playroom has its own outdoor area, which staff ensure children access daily. They promote children's physical development through a range of activities where they practise climbing, balancing, den building and taking appropriate risks. Effective hygiene procedures are implemented, with staff encouraging and supporting all children to wash their hands when needed, following effective cleaning procedures to prevent the risk of cross infection.

Staff interact with children with warmth and affection. They provide comfort and reassurance when children need it and treat them with respect. Staff encourage positive interactions using effective strategies. They model positive interactions throughout the day, giving plenty of praise for being nice to each other, completing activities and trying new things. Staff use distraction techniques to positively engage children in activities and gently give clear instructions whilst explaining to children when their behaviour is not appropriate. For example, when children raised their voice when talking to their friend, staff calmly reminded them '*We should be kind to our friends*' before asking them to use a kinder voice. Staff provide lots of praise when the children use kind words when interacting together, reinforcing the positive behaviour.

Staff ensure activities are varied, with a good mixture of outdoor activities that encourage exploration and curiosity as well as literacy, numeracy and creativity. Staff ensure children have many opportunities to engage in loose parts play, which helps to develop their curiosity, imagination. This also helps the children manage and regulate their behaviour whilst undertaking more risky activities. They know the children well and respond to their individual needs effectively. Comprehensive details about children's preferences and individual needs are sought prior to them starting at the setting and these details are used to plan a variety of stimulating activities and experiences for the children. There are effective systems in place to seek additional support for children with additional learning needs. Staff recognise when children will require additional support to take part in activities and provide this support as required. They have strong, well-developed partnerships with a range of outside agencies to ensure that children's needs are met successfully.

Environment**Excellent**

People who run the setting prioritise children's safety and ensure there are highly effective systems in place to manage, monitor and minimise any potential hazards to children's safety. Comprehensive written risk assessments identify potential hazards to children's safety and the steps taken to eliminate or minimise the risk to children. Regular safety checks take place to ensure all areas and resources are free from any potential hazards and staff are vigilant in ensuring that areas are cleaned and cleared regularly to minimise the risk of potential accidents. People who run the setting also promote play activities which support children to take acceptable risks. Risk benefit analysis documents are in place for these activities, outlining the hazards to children and the benefits to their well-being. All risk assessments are reviewed regularly, ensuring they are monitored effectively.

All play areas are well-maintained, comfortable and welcoming with plenty of space to allow children to move around freely. People who run the setting ensure children have a sense of belonging by displaying photographs and samples of children's work throughout the nursery. Where possible, the materials and resources used in the indoor and outdoor areas are real and natural. For example, fabrics, wood and recycled crates are used for den building and building materials such as large plastic crates, recycled boxes and wood are used for construction play. A selection of loose parts are available for children to explore in each of the playrooms and most toys are made from sustainable materials. People who run the setting place emphasis on using neutral colour and natural decoration throughout the nursery, providing a calm and homely environment that is not over-stimulating for children. They ensure outdoor areas provide opportunities for children to experiment, explore and take risks. For example, climbing, balancing, using tools and helping to care for the nursery pet rabbit.

People who run the setting ensure all playrooms have furniture and equipment which aid children's independence, such as low level sinks, toilet seats for younger children and low level tables and chairs. All playrooms also have an extensive range of toys and resources, which promote diversity and help children to learn about different cultures, such as books, jig saws, dolls and posters. People who run the setting ensure the wide range of interesting and exciting toys and resources in each playroom are of good quality and are appropriate for the ages of children in each room. In the playrooms for younger children, activities are chosen by staff and set out ready for children to choose from. All toys and resources throughout the setting are stored at low level in boxes which the children can see what is inside, helping them to choose independently. Toys are clean and in a good state of repair in all indoor and outdoor areas and accurate records are kept of when these are cleaned.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

People who run the setting are enthusiastic and passionate about their work. They share a clear vision for the setting and have a good range policies and procedures in place, which contribute effectively to the smooth running of the setting. Although the use of the Welsh language in the setting is currently limited, people who run the setting have highlighted this as one of their priorities for improvement.

People who run the setting and all staff work together successfully to provide kindness, nurture and care for children. They have further developed a well-being initiative, which promotes the happiness of staff and children and encourages kindness. A variety of activities have taken place, including team building events, personalised awards for staff and events where children bake cakes to deliver to local businesses and people who live around the nursery. There is also a 'share and care' cupboard, where children and parents can help themselves to items such as toiletries, books and good quality second hand school uniforms. This has promoted a positive atmosphere throughout the nursery and within the wider community, helping to develop strong partnerships in the local area and especially with parents.

People who run the setting have excellent arrangements for identifying strengths and areas for improvement and all staff are committed to improving the quality of provision and outcomes for children. Regular staff meetings are conducted to discuss areas for improvement, enabling staff to feed into improvement plans and help in setting targets for themselves. People who run the setting have conducted an annual quality of care review by gathering feedback from children and parents continuously throughout the year. They create books using children's comments and photographs of different activities, allowing children to feed into what they thought worked well and what they would like more of were they to complete a similar activity in future. This feedback helps to form the written report outlining the improvements already made during the year and the highlighted areas for development.

People who run the setting follow safe and robust recruitment processes and ensure staff are well trained to meet children's individual needs. They ensure staff understand their responsibilities and promote their high expectations of the service through regular individual supervision and group staff meetings. There is an excellent commitment to collaborative work throughout the setting and staff feel valued and supported in their roles. Staff we spoke with told us the people who run the setting are extremely approachable and supportive and make them feel valued.

People who run the setting share information with parents effectively. Staff have positive relationships with parents and share information verbally at the end of each session as well as regularly sending information through an online application. There is also a closed social media page, where photographs of children taking part in activities are shared. Positive partnerships have also been formed with local businesses through the well-being and kindness initiative. People who run the setting also regularly contribute to local charities and

causes, such as taking part in sponsored walks and charity evenings to raise money for causes that are important to the families who use the service.

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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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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
Continue to develop the use of the Welsh language throughout the setting.

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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