



Inspection Report

Riverside Nursery School

**Regent House
Regent Way
Chepstow
NP16 5BY**



Date Inspection Completed

07/08/2024

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About Riverside Nursery School

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Sunnybank Childrens Nursery (Chepstow) Ltd
Registered places	89
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	27 March 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	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>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children are very happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They form very strong bonds with staff. Children are extremely enthusiastic in their play and learning and have great fun playing with their friends. They have a wealth of choice and opportunities to increase their independence and develop different skills throughout their time at the setting.

Staff are highly professional and committed to their roles. They successfully implement policies and procedures to keep children safe and healthy. They are enthusiastic, and extremely patient, kind and caring towards each other and the children. They support children's learning and development through a wide range of activities led by the children's interests and developmental needs.

Leaders ensure there are highly effective measures in place to ensure the environment is very safe, secure and well-maintained. Children have access to spacious indoor and outdoor areas that have been thoughtfully developed to provide a rich play and learning environment which fosters independence. Resources allow children to develop their overall skills and independence exceptionally well.

Leadership and management of the setting is excellent. The management team is very strong and passionate about providing an outstanding service. They are motivated and regularly review the care they provide. They ensure the staff team are well supported. Leaders form strong partnerships with families to ensure consistent care for the children. They have developed strong links with local organisations and professionals which benefit children.

Well-being

Excellent

Children are extremely settled, confident and enjoy attending the setting. They cope very well with separation from their parents and carers. Children form strong emotional attachments with their caregivers and feel secure and relaxed in their care. For example, we saw children seek out hugs from staff when needed and smile happily at them as they chatted and played. Children are very familiar with and evidently enjoy the routines of the setting. This gives them a sense of security and belonging. For example, we saw how children came eagerly to the carpeted area ready for circle time and lined up readily to wash their hands before lunch.

Children make many choices about how they spend their time at the setting. We saw them moving easily between the activities and areas and between indoor and outdoor environments. Children express themselves very confidently, knowing staff listen to their needs and wants and value what they say. They chat extremely happily to staff as they play and learn, eagerly inviting them into their play. Children's voices are very strong. Staff know their likes and dislikes and use these to plan future activities which are of interest to them.

Children are beginning to develop very positive, healthy relationships with their friends and staff in line with their age and stage of development. They play happily alongside each other or together. For example, we saw children playing happily together with dinosaurs and co-operating together as they constructed a house from planks. Children are respectful to staff, listening beautifully in circle time and using manners at mealtimes to thank staff for their food.

Children are very enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning, following their own interests with the toys, resources and activities available each day. For example, we saw children concentrate and persevere with activities such as making 'Olympic medals' from clay, whilst younger children were happily absorbed with transporting various toys around the room. Children thoroughly enjoy circle time, and we saw babies smile and laugh as they join in enthusiastically with singing, and older children totally engaged and excitedly taking part in their 'Chatty Chimps' activity.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills. For example, we saw that children are well supported to develop their independence in the toilet and with washing their hands. Children enjoy outstanding opportunities to become more independent during mealtimes. We saw how older children were supported to safely serve themselves with soup and carefully carry their bowls back to their places.

Care and Development

Excellent

Staff are extremely conscientious and implement policies and procedures to a very high standard to keep children safe and healthy. They have a detailed understanding of

safeguarding issues, the setting's safeguarding procedures and their responsibilities to keep children safe and report any concerns. Staff have easy access to children's information and have excellent knowledge of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They are very confident in recording accidents, incidents and pre-existing injuries and share this information with parents. Leaders at the setting regularly review these records and act promptly to take actions to address any issues. There are clear medication procedures and staff follow these to ensure safe administration of medication when needed. Staff are vigilant and attentive in their care of children to ensure that mealtimes are enjoyable, relaxed, sociable and safe. They follow robust procedures to manage children's food allergies, individual dietary requirements, and prevent the risk of choking. Leaders at the setting and the cook work together to plan menus that ensure children enjoy eating healthily and we saw how enthusiastically children eat their home cooked soup. The setting has been awarded the Gold Standard Healthy Snack award. The setting has an effective safe sleep policy and leaders reviewed this during the course of the inspection, making further improvements. Staff ensure children have extremely regular access to outdoor play experiences through the day, this offers children the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air. We saw staff consistently follow thorough hygiene and cleaning practices as part of the infection control process to help keep children healthy and safe.

Staff are excellent role models. They are outstandingly kind, caring and patient, genuinely showing interest and care in all that they do. They work extremely hard to ensure children feel valued and enjoy their whole day at the setting. They encourage children to express their feelings and emotions and are extremely responsive and nurturing, meaning children approach them with great ease. Staff manage interactions and behaviour skilfully, using gentle tones, clear boundaries, distraction methods and plenty of meaningful praise for children's efforts and achievements.

Staff support children's learning and development extremely well. A key worker system is in place and staff have a thorough knowledge of children's individual needs. Staff follow the Curriculum for Wales to plan high quality experiences and evaluate children's enjoyment and engagement in activities to adapt and plan further play opportunities. Regular observations and assessments allow staff to monitor and track children's progress and plan effectively for children's progression. Staff are extremely proactive and work outstandingly with a range of partners and outside professionals to effectively support children with additional learning needs. Staff promote the Welsh language through the use of phrases, words and songs with the children.

Environment**Excellent**

The setting is very safe and secure. Staff ensure only authorised entry and maintain a log for any visitors attending. Leaders have created risk assessments for the main areas and activities at the setting and these are effectively followed by staff. Staff complete daily safety checks of the environment and are vigilant about any emerging risks, ensuring children's safety. However, a few of the written risk assessments would benefit from a review and further detail being included to ensure all risks to children have been formally considered. Routine safety checks and certificates for the building and appliances are in place. Leaders ensure that any maintenance issues are addressed as soon as possible.

The environment is extremely welcoming and child friendly and provides an outstanding space for children to play and learn. The indoor play areas are bright, spacious, and organised in a highly effective manner to stimulate children's curiosity, exploration, and development. Staff set up rooms daily with invitations to play and we saw how all children were excited by and engaged with their environment. The low-level furniture and resources foster children's independence, leading to them being able to follow the direction of their play and exploration with ease. For example, children followed their desire to build a structure by accessing the readily available wooden blocks. Babies and young children confidently access the open shelves and baskets finding what they want with ease. Leaders have ensured that the room for babies and young children has good opportunities for children to develop physically and we saw toddlers smile in pleasure as they climbed on the equipment leading to the slide. This room is cosy and inviting and provides areas for relaxation, bottle feeding and cuddling babies as well as play. There are excellent safe, calm facilities for children to sleep and a suitable number of toilets and wash hand basins. Children in the older age groups benefit from the layout of the setting which allows them to access the toilet independently. There is a suitable amount of outdoor space, and this has been developed to provide a variety of opportunities for children to play and learn in the fresh air. For example, children learn about plants and where food comes from as they help look after the bean plants in the raised beds. The setting makes good use of the local area, for example, children benefit from trips out to the local riverbank and park.

The setting contains high-quality furniture. Child sized tables and chairs enable children to access activities easily, furthering their independence. There are exceptional, developmentally appropriate resources both indoors and outdoors, providing a rich play and learning environment. These contain a mix of natural and man-made materials. Real life and multicultural items promote children's awareness of equal opportunities and cultural diversity. Resources are clean and in excellent condition.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

Leaders at the setting have an exceptionally strong sense of purpose, seeking to promote and sustain excellent outcomes for children. The warmth, energy and commitment within the leadership is shared with staff, giving a consistently positive and joyful feel across the setting. Leaders are organised and there is an extensive range of policies and procedures which are regularly reviewed. However, whilst the setting cares for children with raised temperatures well, taking appropriate action, the setting does not have a robust written policy on dealing with and recording raised temperatures in children. They keep other written records consistently and store them securely.

Leaders continually look for ways to improve and develop practice. They are pro-active and take responsibility for keeping up to date with current thinking and best practice standards in the childcare sector. They have well developed and established systems to ensure regular feedback from parents, children and staff to inform their annual quality of care review which supports planning for improvement. They have fully engaged in the inspection process as a means to improve quality.

Leaders follow robust recruitment processes to ensure there are enough staff. Staff files are up to date and checks are carried out to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. There is a clear system in place to ensure that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. Staff are well-qualified, and leaders invest significantly in developing their staff team who told us that they feel valued and supported by the management team, knowing they can approach them anytime to discuss issues. They told us they are very proud to work for the setting, and love coming to work each day. Leaders ensure that staff receive excellent opportunities for further training, for example, staff had recently had some training in British Sign Language.

Leaders and staff have established very strong relationships with parents, ensuring good communication through a variety of methods. For example, via communication through an app, informal verbal handovers and through formal parent consultation evenings. Parents spoke extremely highly of the setting and the care their children receive. They told us they receive feedback on their children's progress and always feel confident to approach staff to discuss any difficulties or issues relating to their children. Leaders have very strong links with a range of professionals, ensuring that when there are concerns about children's progress or development, they share information and work with parents and professionals to support children. Leaders work with other local settings, professionals and organisations to share good practice, ideas, and suggestions. They have also developed beneficial links with other organisations in the area, for example the local fire station and food banks.

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.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this	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)
Standard 24 - Safety	Review written risk assessments to ensure they are robust in identifying risks and thorough in describing actions to mitigate these risks.

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)
Ensure clear information on how raised temperatures in children will be dealt with is available by creating a robust policy.

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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