Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

LCDP Explorers

23a Bridgend Road, Llanharan, Pontyclun, CF72 9RD

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www.lcdp.org.uk

The inspection visit took place on 05/08/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Llanharan Community Development Project Ltd
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	40
Main language(s):	English
Flying Start service:	Yes
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider is not promoting the Welsh language and culture needs of people, and this requires improvement.

Ratings:

Well-being	Adequate
Care & Development	Adequate
Environment	Adequate
Leadership & Management	Poor

Summary:

Children are happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They develop positive relationships with staff and peers, feel valued, and are generally confident in making choices about their play. Children engage appropriately in activities, show enjoyment in their learning, and are beginning to develop independence through daily routines and self-help skills.

Staff generally promote children's safety, health and well-being through appropriate hygiene practices, healthy snack provision and safeguarding procedures. Most staff hold relevant first-aid training and know children well, enabling them to provide caring and responsive support. In general, they manage behaviour positively and follow policies and procedures to help ensure children's individual needs are met.

The environment is generally suitable for children, with adequate indoor space that supports play and daily routines. Children have some access to a small outdoor area, with local trips and visits to

parks providing opportunities for physical play. Some improvements are required to ensure toilet and changing areas are consistently well organised and maintained, and to enhance the range of resources available to meet the needs of all children.

Leadership and management require significant improvements in key areas. A priority action notice has been issued requiring leaders to collect and maintain children's records to support the safety and wellbeing of children. A stable staff team, appropriate training and positive parent feedback are strengths. Since the inspection, the provider has worked closely and cooperatively with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)to address the identified issues and has demonstrated a commitment to making the required improvements.

Findings:

Well-being — Adequate

Children are happy, settled and have a suitable level of choice and control over their play. They independently select resources and activities, including creative materials, construction toys, sensory experiences and outdoor play opportunities. For example, they design their own obstacle course before adapting it into a boat with a slide. Older children confidently share their views and interests with others and contribute ideas and engage in conversations about their experiences.

Children are familiar with the daily routines, which support their well-being. They appear content and are comfortable approaching familiar staff when they need support or reassurance. For example, they interact positively with staff, and younger children approach staff for cuddles and comfort when they need it. Children engage in activities without difficulty and appear at ease within their surroundings.

Children interact appropriately with one another and develop friendships through shared play. They work together to complete puzzles, build large constructions and create imaginative outdoor spaces. Children show consideration for others and cooperate during group activities. They respond positively to praise for their efforts, which helps to build their confidence and enjoyment.

Children enjoy their play and learning experiences. They engage appropriately in activities linked to a variety of countries and cultures, including creating flags, tasting foods and exploring nature-based activities. Most children concentrate for a significant amount of time and enjoy completing activities at their own pace, following their own interests. Children benefit from regular trips to local parks and wooded areas, where they have opportunities to explore the natural environment, develop their physical skills and satisfy their curiosity through outdoor play.

Children develop suitable levels of independence. They choose their own activities, wash their hands, clear away plates and select snacks. However, opportunities for older children to take an active role at mealtimes, such as self-serving food and drinks and making choices, are limited. Children make steady progress in their learning through a range of play experiences and develop skills in communication, problem-solving and exploration.

Care & Development — Adequate

Staff have a suitable understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe during the day to day running of the setting. They follow appropriate hygiene procedures and wear protective equipment when serving food and carrying out personal care routines. Staff ensure children wash their hands before meals, that drinking water is readily available and maintain allergy information and individual care plans. Staff maintain accurate registers of children's attendance and have recently strengthened the sign-in procedures to ensure children are safely accounted for when arriving at the service. Staff are aware of the correct procedures to follow should they have any safeguarding concerns about a child. However, outcomes for children require improvement because leaders have not notified CIW of these significant events and we expect the provider to make improvements. Staff keep records of accidents on pre-printed forms, ensuring the necessary information is recorded. They complete audits of these accidents, incidents and injuries, helping them monitor children's welfare.

Overall, staff are good role models and support children's emotional well-being. They respond sensitively when children become upset and provide reassurance when needed. For example, staff comfort children who experience a bump during play. Staff in the younger children's area demonstrate strong caring relationships with children, consistently offering warmth, patience, and sensitive support throughout the session. They promote kindness and respect for the natural world through everyday interactions. For example, when a child found a small spider, staff spoke gently about being careful with living creatures and encouraged the child to place the spider outside so it could find its home. Although interactions are mostly positive, on occasions, the tone used by some staff is not appropriate and does not fully promote children's dignity.

Staff support children's learning and development through a range of activities. Most staff know children and their individual needs, likes and dislikes well. They naturally extend the play and learning of children through chatting to them about what they are doing. Staff encourage problem-solving, imaginative play and exploration. During the holiday period, staff plan basic activities in advance and develop themes around children's specific interests. They extend children's thinking through discussions and support themed projects that broaden children's understanding of the world. Staff organise regular trips to local parks and woodland areas, providing children with valuable opportunities to explore their environment, be physically active and engage with nature. While these experiences offer enjoyable outdoor learning opportunities, planned activities during these outings do not always support and extend children's learning, development and individual interests'. Staff introduce Welsh naturally throughout the day, particularly with younger children, through songs, simple words and phrases.

Environment — Adequate

On the whole, leaders provide a safe and secure environment for children. They control access to the setting through locked doors and a secure entry system, helping to ensure that only authorised individuals enter the premises. Leaders require all visitors to sign in on arrival, enabling them to maintain an accurate record of individuals on site. They implement appropriate health and safety procedures, including carrying out regular fire drills so children and staff are familiar with emergency evacuation arrangements. Staff complete routine checks of rooms and play areas before use and supervise children effectively throughout activities. This helps to minimise risks while allowing children valuable opportunities to play actively, explore their surroundings and develop independence. Leaders also undertake regular maintenance and safety inspections of the building, demonstrating their commitment to promoting children's safety and well-being.

Leaders provide indoor accommodation that generally meets children's care, play and learning needs. They organise the environment to include a range of spaces that support different aspects of children's development, including areas for physical play, sensory exploration, group activities and quiet rest. These spaces enable children to participate in a variety of experiences and encourage them to make choices about their play. Leaders also provide access to a small outdoor area situated adjacent to the younger children's room. In addition, they make effective use of the local community by arranging regular visits to parks and other

Leaders provide children with an adequate range of toys, resources and equipment that support play and learning across a broad range of developmental areas. They ensure children have access to construction materials, creative resources, books, role-play equipment and resources that encourage physical activity. These resources generally reflect children's interests and support their engagement in play. However, leaders do not always provide a sufficiently varied range of resources to meet the needs and interests of older children.. Leaders promote awareness of Welsh language and culture by displaying bilingual signage throughout the setting and providing a small range of Welsh-language books and resources. This helps children develop familiarity with the Welsh language and strengthens their understanding of Welsh culture and identity.

Leadership & Management — Poor

Leadership of the setting is not yet consistently effective, and some areas require significant improvement. The Responsible Individual (RI) has a clear vision for the service and is committed to providing good quality childcare. The statement of purpose broadly reflects the care provided, and leaders promote a positive culture that places children's wellbeing at its centre. Some of the required insurance policies, such as public liability insurance, are in place to provide appropriate cover for the service. During the inspection we found the provider had not ensured some of the required insurance policies in relation to the vehicles used to transport children met requirements, However, during the course of the inspection, the provider took appropriate steps to address this. The leaders do not always ensure that accurate records are maintained for every child attending the service. . As a result, leaders cannot always be confident that accurate information is available to support children's safety, care and individual needs. A priority action notice has been issued regarding this matter and the provider must take immediate action to address these matters.

Leaders recognise the importance of self-evaluation and have good systems in place to effectively plan for improvement. They actively seek feedback from parents, carers and children to inform their quality-of-care review. The review provides an evaluation of the service, identifying areas of good practice as well as priorities for further development. Since the inspection, leaders have maintained regular contact with CIW and have demonstrated a strong commitment to continuous improvement through engaging positively in discussions, seeking guidance where appropriate and providing regular updates on the progress made.

Overall, leaders undertake relevant safe recruitment practices to ensure staff are suitable to work with children and that their Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. They ensure staff complete up to date mandatory training and have appropriate qualifications to work with the age range of children who attend. Staff report they feel very well supported by the RI who is available for advice, guidance or support. Staff are offered some support and guidance during supervision. However, some inductions and formal appraisals with staff have not been carried out consistently in line with required timescales. We expect the provider to take action to address this shortfall and ensure inductions and appraisals are completed in a timely manner.

Leaders develop positive partnerships that support children's well-being and development. The service uses a range of communication methods to keep parents informed and involved in their children's care, including a dedicated online app, newsletters, stay and play sessions, and family notice boards. Parents spoke positively about the service, highlighting that their children were happy, staff were caring and supportive, and the provision was responsive to children's individual needs, with many families continuing to use the service over a number of years.

Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

The table(s) below show the area(s) for priority action and/or those for improvement we have identified.

Summary of Areas for Improvement	Date identified
Children may be at risk of harm because the provider does not notify Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) of all significant events.	05/08/26
Children are potentially at risk because the provider does not formally monitor and review staff performance on a regular basis to ensure effective service delivery and children's safety .	05/08/26

Summary of areas for Priority Action	Date identified
Children's health and safety is at risk as the responsible individual is unable to demonstrate they have gathered the required information to ensure that children's health needs, emergency arrangements, and individual welfare requirements can be met effectively.	05/08/26

National Minimum Standards

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.

Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 22 - Environment	Continue updating the maintenance and refurbishment of the building.
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure all children's toilet and changing areas are clean , organised and potties stored off the floor.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Review the play resources available to ensure they meet the interests and needs of all the children attending.

Best Practice

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.

Recommendation(s)
Ensure that accident, incident and medication forms are completed fully.
Consider timing fire drill practices and evaluating their outcome.
Ensure all staff interact with children positively and manage behaviour in line with the setting's behaviour management policy.
Consider the organisation of outdoor trips to ensure they maximise the experiences for children.
Ensure the car insurance is appropriate for business use.
Increase the opportunities for children to develop their independence skills at mealtimes.

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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