Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

St Aubin Nursery Romilly Road

1 Romilly Road
Cardiff
CF5 1FH



Date Inspection Completed

16/08/2023

About St Aubin Nursery Romilly Road

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	St Aubin Nurseries Limited
Registered places	55
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	09 May 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	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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Well-being	**Excellent**
Care and Development	**Excellent**
Environment	**Excellent**
Leadership and Management	**Excellent**

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

Summary

The nursery is very child centred with a strong emphasis upon children's participation and consultation. Children are very happy and comfortable in their surroundings and form warm relationships with staff. They have lots of opportunities to do things for themselves and develop independence.

Staff are professional, responsive and attentive to the children. They know children's individual needs and foster a nurturing atmosphere in which children are encouraged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are in place to keep the environment safe, secure and clean and staff implement these well. The nursery is maintained to a very high standard and resources, equipment and the general environment promote children's play and learning exceptionally well.

Leadership and management arrangements are very good and staff are happy in their work. Consultations with parents, children and staff contribute to the development of the service. The responsible individual and person in charge are very experienced, organised and dedicated to providing an excellent service. Staff are motivated and share this positive ethos.

Well-being Excellent

Children have a strong say in planning their play, in line with their ideas or interests. For example, children had expressed enthusiasm for building and making, whilst exploring different professions such as doctors, police and construction workers. Therefore, they took delight in the construction activities and resources that staff had organised for them. Children move freely between activities, both inside and outside, as the 'Roaming' policy supports them to explore their surroundings. Children's feedback is reflected in the service's review, for example, *'I like the outdoor classroom best, and the construction room.'* Such feedback is used to plan and develop the service.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed and quickly become used to their surroundings, routines and staff. Resources including books, games and small world play reflect and celebrate children's diverse cultural backgrounds so that all children feel valued. Children's work is appreciated and displayed to build their sense of belonging and self-esteem. Photographs and links to home are celebrated throughout the nursery.

Children play very well together showing patience and respect for their friends. Interactions between children and staff are consistently stimulating and children co-operate enthusiastically and feel inspired and motivated. They develop their social skills and friendships within the nurturing atmosphere of the nursery. For example, children co-operated well whilst making flower 'soup' and 'spaghetti bolognese' in the mud kitchen area. The children were able to negotiate successfully how this would happen needing very little help from staff. Children spontaneously say '*please*', '*thank you'*, and are eager to help friends. During lunchtime, children were eager to see which colour aprons their friends had chosen, expressing delight when they saw they had chosen the same colours.

Children are very happy in their play and enjoy exploring both the inside and outside play areas. There are lots of photographs of children participating in a wide array of fun activities, for example printing shapes and crafting. They concentrate well, for example, when rolling out playdough, constructing dinosaurs or when filling containers with water. They show real joy when filling up their favourite blue teapot with water and seeing the water overflow out through the spout. Other children stand tall and proud as their height is measured by staff, and then show real pleasure as they attempt to use the tape measure to measure their friends.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do things for themselves successfully and to problem solve effectively. Children do as much for themselves as possible in line with their age and stage of development. Older children wash and dry their hands, store away their belongings, tidy up and problem solve during play. Play opportunities help develop their confidence and this in turn supports them to learn new skills. During lunch, children self-serve and pour their own drinks.

Care and Development — Excellent

Staff fully understand and consistently implement policies and promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety and well-being. Staff know children's allergies, dietary requirements and medical needs. Safeguarding is prioritised and nearly all staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities to protect children. They consistently implement robust cleaning and excellent hygiene practices. They complete daily records relating to accidents, incidents and medication, appropriately. Staff encourage indoor and outdoor exercise promoting children's physical well-being. Staff regularly practise fire drills with children. They help children understand healthy lifestyles through promoting healthy eating, good personal care, safety, and developing positive relationships.

Staff have an excellent understanding of the children's needs. Staff treat children kindly, calmly and practise appropriate behaviour management strategies; for example, using lots of praise and actively listening to children. Their management of children is supported and guided by a very clear, robust policy to ensure staff are consistent in how they interact and manage children. They provide appropriate activities for children's individual abilities and encourage children's curiosity. This ensures that children do not get bored or frustrated. They have good relationships with their colleagues and communicate well with each other, so children are appropriately supervised and supported effectively. They act as very good role models at all times.

Staff have the skills and knowledge to identify children's individual needs and plan appropriate learning opportunities. They track children's progress and use information and observations to plan for the next steps in their play and learning. They have very effective planning, observation and assessment tools, which they implement well. They set up areas so that children are curious and have a choice in how they wish to play. They support children to make decisions and grow in confidence. For example, one child correctly identified and named a hippopotamus and was visibly pleased when staff praised his knowledge. Individual learning plans are developed with an Additional Learning Needs co-ordinator when needed. The nursery is working towards the active offer, however, little spoken Welsh was heard during the inspection.

Environment — Excellent

The nursery is very welcoming for children. It is clean and well maintained with consistent and effective heating and ventilation dependant on the temperature. Leaders have comprehensive and very effective measures in place to ensure that everyone fully understands their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. The building is secure preventing any unauthorised people entering the premises. Staff understand the importance of following daily safety checks and procedures. They complete risk assessments of their base rooms and outside areas and enable risk-taking play through appropriate support and supervision of children. There are regular checks of accidents and incident forms to identify and respond to any emerging risks or maintenance issues. Leaders effectively organise consistent cleaning routines that reflect excellent hygiene practices. Their highly effective infection control practices successfully minimise any risks to children's health and safety. The nursery is light and spacious, providing children with ample space to play and learn. Sleep areas are well organised and quiet with staff supervising any sleeping children. Toilets are clean and accessible for children.

Leaders ensure the environment has extensive indoor play space for children to move freely and explore. They ensure the environment always meets the children's needs and enables them to reach their full potential. Staff ensure that the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is an extension to the learning environment. They extend children's knowledge and development in the outdoors by offering an extensive range of resources which challenges and consistently stimulates their curiosity and interest, for example, water play, sand play and a mud kitchen. Leaders ensure that all children can easily access excellent quality and an extensive variety of age-appropriate furniture, toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors to stimulate the children's interest and imagination.

Toys and play equipment are plentiful and of a high quality. There are for example, wooden and natural play resources. There are resources, which encourage children to have an understanding and value of other cultures. Systems for monitoring resources ensures they are of a high standard. Further developments of the nursery are planned and outlined in the service review which identifies clear priorities for improvement.

Leadership and Management — Excellent

There is excellent leadership and strong policies and procedures in place to ensure the nursery operates to a high standard. Leaders ensure they fully comply with all applicable regulations and consistently exceed the national minimum standards. NMS. They have a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities and undertake these very competently.

There is a strong vision for the service, which is communicated well to all staff who participate and support these goals. The responsible individual undertakes an annual quality of care review. Consultation with parents, staff and children is meaningful and leads to the development of the service. For example, as a result of feedback the nursery has *"included lentils and pulses in some of our meals to increase the amount of protein for the children, especially those whom are vegetarian or do not eat meat for religious or ethical reasons".* Planning for the future includes, for example, *"alternative approaches to support wellbeing"* using *"Mindfulness practice"* and *" worry monsters/worry boxes".*

People who run the setting use effective strategies to support staff and ensure the nursery operates smoothly. Recruitment and induction procedures are thorough and equip staff to do their job well. Staff receive regular supervision and records demonstrate these are meaningful and support professional development. All staff also undertake a refresher induction annually, to ensure their understanding of policies, procedures and best practice is maintained. There is sufficient cover for holidays, sickness and training. Staff told us they feel well supported and confident in their role.

People who run the setting work with parents to improve children's learning and have established good partnerships. They recently held a parents evening and communicate effectively with parents. The nursery has formed strong links with the community and positive relationships with other professionals.

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

N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

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)
Promote the use of Welsh within 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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