Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Lighthouse Nursery

Thornhill Church Centre
Excalibur Drive
Thornhill
Cardiff
CF14 9GA



Date Inspection Completed

05/04/2023

About Lighthouse Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Thornhill Church Trust
Registered places	24
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	1 August 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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.

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Well-being	**Excellent**
Care and Development	**Excellent**
Environment	**Good**
Leadership and Management	**Good**

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

Summary

Children are very happy, settle quickly and thrive at the setting. The children have warm relationships with staff who know them extremely well. They have excellent opportunities to develop their skills and they thoroughly enjoy their play. Children participate in a wide range of stimulating and fun activities, both inside and outside, nurturing their learning successfully.

Staff are well qualified, professional and have a very good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. They are extremely responsive and respect the children in their care and the decisions they make. Staff have an exceptionally good understanding of children's individual needs and this ensures they are well met.

The environment is clean, spacious and well organised. Staff follow procedures to ensure the environment is safe and suitable. The outdoor play area is secure and provides children with many, varied opportunities for a wide range of enriching activities. The indoor environment is welcoming, bright and interesting. Resources are stored at low level enabling children to access them independently. Resources are of a very good quality, including many natural resources, provided in suitable quantities.

Leadership and management of the service is effective. The management team has a clear vision for the service and shares this with staff. Managers support staff well, recruitment is undertaken safely, and formal staff supervision and appraisals are undertaken regularly. There are good policies, procedures and records in place.

Well-being Excellent

Children have ample choice, and a strong voice in this setting. They move freely around their play space, making choices and decisions about what they want to play with. They are well aware of their daily routines. Children are given good opportunity to express themselves and talk about things that are important to them. They join in enthusiastically with activities and are confident to express their opinions because they know care staff listen to them. Children's likes and requests influence the activities provided. Whilst others toileted before lunch, children chose a book out of the box to look at themselves. They were also directly asked which toys they'd like in the tuff tray and on table tops for the session.

Children feel safe, happy and valued at the setting. They develop warm relationships with other children and staff. Children approach care staff spontaneously to seek reassurance or support and enjoy receiving praise and recognition for their efforts. We saw children laughing and smiling as staff joined in with their play. Children are comfortable in familiar routines and activities of the setting. They are confident to explore the play space, bringing out resources as they wish. For example, a child painting using carrots found more carrots in the role play area, offering one to staff to "buy" as she passed by.

Children co-operate, take turns and share, and they are developing sensitivity to the emotions of others. They demonstrate a good understanding of what is expected of them at the setting. Children are learning to negotiate their play and some of the older children are learning to play co-operatively. Children enjoy the praise they receive for positive behaviour, and they interact well with staff and other children. They are developing a sense of right and wrong and are becoming self-disciplined.

Children are interested and excited in the play-based activities on offer to them. Children are active and curious. They are happy and confident to move between activities freely, but also sustain interest in activities of their choosing. An "exploration table" has been set up and children decide what goes on the table. During our visit, we saw several children explore the resources for extended periods of time, developing their play and understanding. All children are happy and engaged.

Children are encouraged to be very independent in the service, and they develop skills as a natural part of the routine of the day. They can access most resources freely because they are displayed for children attractively, allowing them to extend and develop their play themselves as they wish. We saw children happily playing independently of staff, who allowed them the space to explore and progress their own play. Interactive and well thought out circle-times encourage children to join in and have fun, as well as practice skills.

Care and Development — Excellent

Staff are very successful in their roles. They are clear about their responsibilities and have good knowledge of how to keep children safe and healthy. They speak confidently about safeguarding procedures and know managers will be responsive to any concerns they raise. There are procedures for recording the administering of medication, accidents, incidents and existing injuries. Managers monitor these monthly to identify any trends in accidents sustained at the nursery, and ways to minimise the risk of these happening again are recorded. Snacks provided are healthy and nutritious. The setting maintains accreditation with various healthy eating schemes, including the Gold Standard Healthy Snack Award. Staff provide access to physical exercise; time outdoors for play is included every day.

Staff work exceptionally well together to support and promote children's social behaviour. They are very good and positive role models for children in their care, treating each other and children with respect and kindness. Staff take time to give clear instructions and explain what is expected. They also respect the children by giving them time to think before answering questions. Staff offer praise and encouragement to the children. They are very encouraging of children's effort and praise this. Staff have a very calm manner when managing behaviour. No significant issues of behaviour management occurred during the inspection, largely due to the positive approach taken.

Staff provide an extremely nurturing and caring environment in which children's play and well-being are very well promoted. All staff have a relaxed, happy and caring nature when interacting with the children. The staff group are keen to ensure they are good facilitators of play and development; all staff spoke passionately about desire to improve the outcomes for children in their care. They are unwaveringly considerate of the children's views and conscious to give the young children options and choices and to allow them to express themselves. Staff engage excellently with small groups of children during play, meaning children can interact with them and staff can effectively and sensitively support play and development. Children are directly consulted for ideas for topics and activity planning. The activities available to the children are then planned by staff based on their feedback, observed interests and how they enjoyed previous activities. Activity evaluations include comments from children and observations of how they've enjoyed it. Activities can be extended to allow children to continue to develop their play or changed as the interests of the children change. The Welsh language is included strongly in the provision, as well as other languages that children and staff speak, which helps to make everyone feel included and valued.

Environment — Good

The environment is safe, secure and welcoming. Staff are vigilant and supervise children closely at all times. The ratios of staff to children meet or exceed those required by National Minimum Standards. Staff complete daily safety checks to identify, and where possible, eliminate any risks to children's safety. Registers record the times children arrive at and leave the premises. Managers keep records of all visitors to the setting. There are rigorous risk assessments in place for all areas of the setting. Records show all regular and routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are in place, although one had been allowed to expire before being renewed. Regular fire drill practices are carried out to ensure staff and children are familiar with the emergency evacuation process.

The premises provides a rich and stimulating environment for children to play and learn. It is well maintained and decorated to a good standard. The indoor play space is interesting and appealing, without being overwhelming to children. This is aided by lots of natural resources. There are lots of lovely displays of children's work, demonstrating to the children that what they do is valued in this setting, as well as photos of them playing, and a birthday wall. The outside play space is well utilised and we saw the children enjoy the resources made available to them outside. There are several outdoor spaces which are used in all weathers and are exceptionally well equipped and developed. Amongst many other things, a music corner has been created by repurposing pans and tins and hanging them from a decorated fence. Small world has been created in an imaginate way for outdoors by growing grass in tyres for small world items to be set in, which we saw prompted the children to make up and photograph a story with small world people, supported by staff.

There is a wide range of good quality resources and the layout promotes children's independence well. Children are free to choose their activities in a calm and well-organised space. There are sufficient resources such as art and craft materials for children to have good variety and free choice. Resources are stored at low level and in plain sight, allowing children to choose easily what they want to play with. Furniture is of suitable size and design for the age range of the children. Lots of natural resources and real-life items are available, such as pine cones, sticks and conkers for counting activities and emptying and filling, amongst other things. Some real food items are included in the extremely well-resourced outdoor role play kitchen and children could practice their cutting skills with butter knives. Recycled packaging is included and filled with water so that children could add 'sauces' to their cooking. Staff encouraged children to tear and smell the wild garlic they were stirring into the 'soups' they were making. Children were clearly totally engrossed in this well-supported imaginative play.

Leadership and Management Good

Managers are skilled and experienced, and overall, manage the service to a high standard. There is a clear vision for the setting, reflected in the statement of purpose. There are clear policies and procedures which reflect the setting and current practice, although some require review to ensure they are fully up to date. Staff work consistently in line with these to support the smooth running of the setting. Operational records contain the necessary information, although some would benefit from additional detail. Records of children's information are complete. Managers employ an appropriate number of suitably qualified and experienced staff to care for the children. Managers have high expectations of staff and support and challenge them to do their best.

Children and parents benefit from a setting which is committed to improving outcomes for children and families. There is a thorough quality of care report detailing what the setting does well and an action plan of what they want to improve. Managers undertake this review annually as required, and take into account the views of children, parents, staff and outside agencies such as local authority advisory staff. Managers work hard to ensure they deliver high quality care and the fact that they have not received any formal complaints reflects this.

Managers are effective in overseeing staff, managing their time and prioritising activities responsively to ensure that children's needs are met in a timely manner. We observed staff to be very well organised, and the resulting relaxed care environment has a positive impact on the children's mood and their interactions. Staff confirmed they enjoy working at the setting and feel passionately about the service they provide for children and families. Robust recruitment procedures ensure that suitable staff are employed to work with children. Mandatory training is kept up to date and staff benefit from additional development training. Staff receive regular supervisions and appraisals to reflect on their practice.

Positive relationships with the community are valued at this setting. Staff told us they value the relationships they have built with parents and are keen to ensure parents feel they can approach them at any time. Parents are very complimentary about the setting and are confident to leave their children there.

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)
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Revise the wording of written parental permissions regarding any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
Standard 5 - Records	Records of existing injuries, accidents and incidents should include more thorough information
Standard 22 - Environment	A system must be in place to ensure building safety certificates are viewed each time they are renewed so that the RI can assure themselves the premises are safe for use

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)
Review and update policies

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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