Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

# Inspection Report

## Ocean Day Care Nursery

Unit 5, Vanguard Way, Neptune Point, Cardiff, CF24 5PG

02920484007

www.oceandaynursery.com

**Date(s) of inspection visit(s):**

17/04/2025

## Service Information:

| | |
|---|---|
| Operated by: | Ocean Facilities Limited - (continuing trade name of Ocean Day Care Nursery) |
| Care Type: | Children's Day Care |
| Registered places: | 48 |
| Main language(s): | English |
| Flying Start service: | No |
| Receive funding to provide early years part time education: | No |
| Promotion of Welsh language and culture: | The service provider is not meeting the Welsh language and culture needs of people and this requires improvement. |

## Ratings:

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

## Summary:

Children are content and settled within the nursery. They have formed relationships with each other and staff, which helps them feel safe and valued. Children can make some choices about how they spend their time, have opportunities to develop skills, and they are confident in their environment.

Staff are professional, appropriately qualified and enjoy their work. They are kind, caring and interact well with children. Staff keep children safe and implement suitable routines, policies and procedures. They plan suitable play opportunities which children enjoy.

Managers and staff ensure the environment is secure and safe. The environment is welcoming and suitably organised for children to enjoy. Play areas and equipment are clean and maintained. The setting has suitable resources, stored in a way that means children can access them independently. The management of risk is appropriate.

Managers ensure parents and children receive a service which is well run and with due regard paid

to the regulations and National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care. They have made significant improvement to the provision in response to the last Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspection and outcomes for children are much improved.

# Findings:

## Well-being — Adequate

Children are able to make choices and are listened to. They move freely around their play space, making choices and decisions about what they want to play with. Children are familiar with the daily routines and know what to expect at the setting. They are encouraged to voice their preferences, such as whether they would like to play indoors or outside. Children can choose when to pause their play for snack now as rolling snack has been introduced. Children now have greater ownership over the more open-plan play space and this has improved their experiences.

Almost all children feel safe, happy and valued at the setting. They develop some 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 many children laughing and smiling as staff joined in with their play. On one occasion a member of staff started to clean up around an activity and a child said to her, "*Just come and play!*" They are confident to explore the play space, bringing out resources as they wish. Some children are unsettled at times but staff make efforts to comfort them and meet their needs.

Overall, children interact positively with each other relevant to their age and stage of development. The group of children we observed were very young, and they were learning to share space and resources. For example, we saw children taking turns to use the climbing frame and equipment in the garden. Older children are beginning to form friendships, displaying a preference for playing with particular children and creating play ideas together. For example, two children developed a throwing game which kept them well amused.

Children enjoy their play and concentrate on activities for an appropriate amount of time. They are active and curious, confident to move between activities freely, but also sustain interest in activities of their choosing. They enjoy playing with the new range of play and learning resources available to them. Activities are available to children throughout the day. Children are well engaged in the activities set out in the morning. However, as these are not refreshed or tidied during the day, in the afternoon the children are less interested and drift more, with less engagement in purposeful play.

Children have suitable opportunities to be independent. Many children access the toilet facilities themselves and wash their own hands. They can access resources with ease from labelled storage boxes. Some children pour their own drinks. We saw young children being encouraged to feed themselves, with staff offering support where needed. Activities and play opportunities now encourage and support children to develop skills in an age-appropriate way.

## Care & Development — Adequate

Staff are effective in their roles. They are clear about their responsibilities and have suitable 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. Staff spoke positively about the support they receive from the people who run the setting, and they are committed to on-going improvement. They follow 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 and addressed. Meals and snacks provided are healthy and nutritious. The setting maintains accreditation with healthy eating schemes such as the Gold Standard Healthy Snack Award. 'Rolling snack' has been introduced to allow children more freedom of choice. However, we noted that food was served to children on the table rather than plates. Some children got up from the table and wandered around whilst still eating, and staff did not challenge this appropriately. These practices increase risks to children's health and safety, and impact their developing table etiquette and relationship with food. Staff provide access to physical exercise; time outdoors for play is included every day and valued, as well as accessing space indoors for physical play.

Staff work together to support and promote children's social interactions and behaviour. Staff set realistic boundaries, are good role models and use a fairly consistent approach, taking into account children's age and understanding. They take a positive approach to guiding behaviour. They praise children when they behave appropriately, thereby reinforcing good behaviour. They also encourage and praise children for making a good effort. We saw children respond well to this approach.

Staff provide a nurturing and caring environment in which they promote children's play and well-being appropriately. Staff have a relaxed, happy and caring nature when interacting with the children. They speak in a calm and reassuring manner, and this helps to ensure the play environment is relaxed and pleasant. Staff are keen to ensure they are good play facilitators, and they are also beginning to introduce aspects of the New Curriculum for Wales into the setting. Staff plan the play environment to enable children to access key activities and resources continually throughout the day. They also plan a selection of activities which are more targeted at individual development points for children to help them progress in certain areas. The Welsh language is included intermittently through incidental phrases and instructions from staff, as well as in some signage and displays. Staff work collaboratively with external agencies to support children with additional learning needs (ALN) and this is continuing to be developed as the need arises.

## Environment — Adequate

Managers and staff ensure the environment is safe and secure for children. They ask all visitors to sign in and out of the building. They complete children's registers in a timely manner with all necessary information, and staff attendance is also recorded appropriately. Staff implement suitable risk assessments and undertake daily safety checks of the areas used by children. They undertake fire drills with children regularly to ensure staff and children are familiar with the emergency evacuation process. Managers review the records on each occasion to help identify any learning and improve evacuation processes whenever possible. Managers ensure insurance certificates are up to date, as well as most routine safety checks for the building and appliances, such as an annual gas safety check and fire safety equipment.

Managers and staff maintain the environment appropriately and provide a welcoming, child friendly space, which is suitable for the age of the children cared for. Since the last inspection, the managers and staff have tidied and re-organised the playroom to provide more spacious play areas. This has significantly improved children's choices and experiences, consequently, they now engage more positively/purposefully in activities. The outside play space is well organised and the available resources provide many opportunities for children to explore and develop their play ideas. We saw the children thoroughly enjoy outdoor play, using the large play equipment, investigating the growing area and exploring the mud kitchen and water pouring wall.

Children benefit from a suitable range of resources and the layout promotes children's independence. Children are free to choose their activities in a calm and well-organised space. They provide suitable child-sized tables and chairs for children to do activities. There are sufficient resources such as art and craft materials for children to have good variety and free choice. They store many resources at low levels allowing children to access them independently, supporting their free choice. A cleaning rota is in place to ensure all toys are deep cleaned regularly.

## Leadership & Management — Adequate

Managers have made tremendous strides since the last CIW inspection to improve standards in the setting. They have developed a clear vision for the setting, reflected in the statement of purpose, and the service provided now meets the requirements of the regulations and National Minimum Standards. Managers have reviewed all of the setting's policies and procedures to ensure they are clear and reflect current practice and guidance. These have been well communicated to staff, improving their confidence in their roles. Managers have a robust system to ensure that in the future policies are reviewed regularly, are fully up to date, and staff are familiarised with any changes. Staff work consistently in line with these to support the smooth running of the setting. Operational records contain the necessary information and records of children's information are complete. Managers employ an appropriate number of suitably qualified and experienced staff to care for the children, and they support and challenge them to do their best.

Managers demonstrate a strong commitment to improving the service provided. They have shown a commendable attitude to making improvements in an informed and thorough way. This has resulted in more positive outcomes for children and families. Managers have composed a thorough quality of care report detailing what the setting does well and an action plan of what they want to improve. This is well-informed by the views of parents, children, staff, and feedback from the last CIW inspection.

Managers are effective in overseeing staff. Staff are suitably well organised, which allows them to remain calm whilst delivering care. Staff confirmed they enjoy working at the setting. They feel supported, knowing they can approach the managers for help or support if needed. All staff benefit from regular supervision and appraisal meetings to reflect on their practice. Managers conduct robust recruitment procedures to ensure suitable and sufficient well-qualified staff are employed to work with children. They ensure mandatory training is kept up to date and staff benefit from additional training opportunities to develop their skills. Recently, this has included all staff undertaking the Social Care Wales Induction Framework to refresh their knowledge of core principles and underpin the improvements being made to the setting.

Positive relationships with the community are valued at this setting. Staff and managers 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. Displays in the foyer provide useful and easily accessible information for parents and families. These include, policies and procedures, information about children's activities and the quality of care report.

# 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.

# 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) |
|---|---|
| | No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection |

# 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) |
|---|
| Review how the continuous provision of activities is implemented and maintained by staff to ensure it remains interesting to children throughout the day |
| Consult guidance for effective, safe and hygienic 'rolling snack'. |

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