Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Little Stars Nursery Abercarn

Unit 7
Darren Drive
Abercarn
Newport
NP11 5AR

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

10/08/2023

About Little Stars Nursery Abercarn

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Kelly Podmore
Registered places	62
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	15 November 2022
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.

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

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

Summary

Children are happy, have a strong voice and can make choices and most decisions independently. They develop strong relationships and express their views openly, knowing they will be listened to. They enjoy a range of interesting opportunities indoors and outdoors, which spark curiosity and engagement. Children are confident in their communication with each other and with staff.

Staff mostly implement policies and promote physical activities, personal safety, and well-being. Staff positively praise children for achievements and good behaviour. They are committed to providing a good range of play and learning activities with an appropriate balance of child and adult led opportunities. Staff plan and assess purposely to ensure children's interests and curiosities are developed further.

The environment has a good indoor play space for children to move freely. People who run the nursery ensure the outdoor play space is used regularly. They mostly provide appropriate, stimulating resources for all ages and stages of development.

People who run the nursery ensure they comply with almost all the relevant regulations and the national minimum standards. They have a strong vision for the future and overall ensure they manage their team with effective support and continuous training. People who run the nursery are enthusiastic and offer a very high standard of care to the children. They have developed good positive relationships with parents and carers.

Well-being Good

Nearly all children arrive at the nursery and cope well as they separate from their parents and carers. Nearly all children have formed positive emotional attachments with the staff and each other. For example, we saw children and staff playing together, discussing ideas, and making suggestions on developing activities further. Children know that staff respond effectively to their needs, such as likes and dislikes, when they're sad or happy, and when they require comfort when feeling ill. Children are settled and happy throughout the nursery and happily play with each other in all activities. For example, younger children play together throwing a ball and singing songs during circle time. Older children worked together on building blocks and in the sand area. Children persevere with activities for an age-appropriate period, managing their behaviour. They take turns and happily support each other in various activities.

Children across the nursery are encouraged to make choices and decisions. These include deciding which activity to take part in. Many activities are available for the children including age-appropriate resources, building blocks, drawing or arts and crafts. Children are free to move from one activity or resource to another. Older children are encouraged to decide what they want to eat and if they want more.

Nearly all the children successfully communicate with each other and adults. Children's attempts to communicate are respected by staff. For example, at circle time, younger children were encouraged to interact and communicate. When a star was chosen out of the basket, they were all encouraged to sing "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." Older children discuss ideas and topics, while younger children discuss what they've enjoyed and what has worked well.

Older Children are developing their independence skills appropriately. For example, they learn to put on their hats and coats prior to going outdoors. Older children access the toilet and wash their hands independently, confidently asking for help when they need it. During snack and lunch times children feed themselves. However, during the inspection, we saw that children's independence at mealtimes could be further developed. For example, children would benefit from serving themselves at lunch time and pouring their own drinks. Most children help to tidy up after play and put resources away.

Care and Development — Adequate

Nearly all staff understand how to keep children safe and healthy. They receive regular safeguarding training and confidently understand the nursery's child protection procedures. Most staff have attended paediatric first aid training and therefore can deal with incidents and accidents appropriately. There are effective systems in place to record the safe administration of prescribed medication and parents are kept informed of dosages administered by staff. Medication is stored safely and is inaccessible to children. Non-prescription medication is only administered by staff if presented in original bottles and the appropriate consent forms are signed.

Most staff have completed relevant food hygiene training. Relevant information is displayed reminding staff of hygiene, including, cleaning checklists, temperature logs and handwashing processes when preparing food. However, the hygiene procedures observed were inconsistent at times. For example, not all staff washed their hands before and after nappy changing and before serving snacks and lunches. Staff ensured that children washed their hands prior to finger snacks but not afterwards. We saw staff replace items dropped on the floor ensuring they were replaced with clean utensils in order to minimise any cross contamination. Staff prepare healthy snacks and lunch for the children. These include fruit and a varied and healthy lunch menu. For example, curry and rice, fish fingers and chicken risotto. Effective cleaning of tables and highchairs is carried out before and after activities, snacks and lunches. Information regarding allergies and dietary requirements are clearly displayed in the kitchen.

Staff work in line with service's behaviour management policy. For example, staff give constant reminders of expectations, distraction techniques and worthwhile praise of consistently good behaviour. We saw staff demonstrate calm and positive attitudes towards all children. Staff talk effectively with children during all activities and at snack and lunchtime. They make children's time at nursery enjoyable. For example, during activities, staff sit with children to question them and suggest and discuss ideas. Staff are valuable role models and have solid relationships with the children.

Staff positively promote children's learning and development through a range of well-planned activities. For example, arts and crafts, using building blocks to create buildings, beach and sand area and circle time. Good use is made of the local park and the outside area to enhance the children's learning and development. Children enjoy going to the park and we saw them get excited when staff collected resources, such as the parachute, for the visit to the park. Children's progress is tracked through observations and used to plan for the next stages of learning. Staff are aware of children's individual needs and plan around children's individual development.

Environment — Good

People who run the nursery ensure the premises are clean, well maintained and decorated. The environment is secure, access to the building is restricted and all visitors sign in and out of the building. A keypad or high turn buckle entry system is used by staff for all children's rooms, and safety gates are evident. People who run the nursery undertake regular fire tests and drills and have almost all risk assessments in place.

People who run the nursery make the rooms welcoming for the children with pictures and displays evident. The downstairs playroom is split into two age groups, using a low-level gate. It has dedicated areas of learning, and children have access to age-appropriate furniture, and a wide range of toys and equipment suitable for their needs. There are mostly sufficient resources, within their age-appropriate rooms. Many are at low level, in all areas so children can access them independently. However, the home corner lacked resources, for the children to realistically role play.

People who run the nursery have a baby room upstairs which has a varied range of age-appropriate toys such as a reading arch, musical toys, and low-level cushioned climbing blocks. There are suitable places to eat, such as low-level tables chairs and highchairs, and mattresses or cots to sleep on. This room does not have blinds at the window and can become hot, the windows are high so staff require steps to open them. Car tyres are in place on the floor, which one child fell into, and the rims were hard. There is a nappy changing room, with toilet, sink and changing table. However, the changing table is only suitable for young babies. The stairs leading to the baby room, has two heights of handrails, one for staff, and one for the children. There are opportunities for confidential conversations in the office.

People who run the nursery ensure there is more than enough space for the children to have many opportunities both indoors and outside. All the rooms are big and spacious to allow children to move freely. People who run the nursery ensure the outdoor play space is in regular use, and it is an extension to the learning environment. It is very secure with a high wooden fence and includes a covered area which is accessible in all weathers. There are various resources outside such as a climbing frame and slide, small house, and tyres. There is plastic turf outside which can get hot in the sun, and this requires risk assessing.

Leadership and Management — Adequate

The people who run the nursery have a good vision for the nursery and promote a positive ethos. Overall, the registered person supports the person in charge well in the day-to-day

operation of the nursery. They are committed to providing a high-quality service and respond quickly to recommendations for improvements. There is a good range of policies to support the safe and efficient running of the nursery. However, the nappy changing policy does not reflect current practice. Paperwork is thorough and organised, and the person in charge accurately maintains all required maintenance records. There is a statement of purpose in place that accurately reflects how the nursery operates.

People who run the nursery understand their responsibility to undertake an annual review of the quality of their care and produce a report. They gather the views of parents and children on the quality of their service via a questionnaire or observations, and the views of staff through staff meetings. The report identifies future development targets, including staff meetings and reviewing policies and procedures. They are currently in the process of completing the Caerphilly Quality Standard Awards.

Overall people who run the nursery have satisfactory recruitment procedures in place that safeguard children. All staff have up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. However not all staff files were complete. They ensure they have enough staff always working with the children and have suitable arrangements in place to cover staff breaks.

Staff we spoke to told us they feel well supported and can speak to their managers at any time. People who run the nursery conduct regular staff meetings and have a suitable system for staff supervision and appraisal. However, the new person in charge had not received recent supervisions or appraisals since her promotion. People who run the nursery ensure that staff remain up to date with mandatory training, such as child protection and paediatric first aid. They enable staff to undertake other training that may support them in their work with children.

People who run the nursery and staff develop very good relationships with parents. They put in place a contract for each child and gather relevant information necessary to meet children’s individual needs, prior to them starting at the nursery. They keep parents informed through a variety of means, including daily feedback and monthly newsletters.

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
17	The Registered Person has failed to upload her 2021 SASS within given timescale.	Achieved

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 13 (Child Minder) - Suitable Person	Re-commence supervisions and appraisals with the person in charge.

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)
Risk assess the fake grass in hot weather.
Promote children's independence during snack and lunch times.
Ensure consistency with regards staff and children washing hands
Provide more natural resources in the home corner.
Provide alternative arrangements for toddlers to have their nappy changed.
Audit staff files to ensure they are contain all the required information.

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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