Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Sunbeams playgroup + Gwernaffield

Community Room Ysgol Y Waun, Y Waen Gwernaffield, Mold, CH7 5DP

07584168425

The inspection visit took place on 08/12/2025

Service Information:

Operated by:	Sunbeams playgroup + Gwernaffield
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	30
Main language(s):	English
Flying Start service:	Yes
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	Yes
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	Adequate

Summary:

Children are happy and confidently make choices at the setting. They interact positively with staff and peers and follow routines that foster security and belonging. They engage enthusiastically during their play and learning, demonstrate cooperation, and show growing independence through a variety of tasks.

Staff follow clear hygiene and safety procedures, including nappy changing and regular fire drills. They prioritise outdoor play and promote positive behaviour through calm interactions and praise. Staff adapt activities to facilitate children's engagement, and they ensure new children receive appropriate support to help them transition from home to the setting.

Leaders maintain a safe, well-kept environment with controlled access. Risk assessments cover most areas, and toys and resources are of good quality and clean.

Leaders understand their roles and regulatory duties. They have successfully addressed the issues raised at the previous inspection. Leaders follow safe recruitment, ensure staff are suitably qualified, and provide training to support improvement.

Findings:

Well-being — Adequate

Children lead their own play and make frequent choices throughout the day. They decide when to go outside, who to play with and which activities to take part in. Most children communicate their preferences confidently because they know their wants and needs are listened to and acted upon. They contribute to activities by telling staff how much water they would like in the water tray before taking part in their play and decide which resources they want out.

Children settle quickly and are happy at the setting. They show enjoyment by spontaneously singing and counting during their play. Their work is displayed on the walls, giving them a sense of pride and belonging. Children are familiar with the setting's routines such as putting their coats on to go outside, washing their hands before lunch and wiping their mouths after eating. They move confidently around the setting, showing they feel secure and valued.

Children interact positively with staff and each other. They cooperate during play, share resources such as the hoops outdoors, and excitedly show each other their work. They enjoy talking to staff about their interests outside of the setting. Most children listen well and follow rules, which supports a calm and respectful atmosphere. They confidently ask for help and some offer to help their peers, showing that they are beginning to develop an understanding for the needs of others.

Children engage enthusiastically in the activities available. They concentrate for extended periods on tasks such as spinning hoops and imaginative role play. They explore the environment freely and combine resources creatively, for example, making a lion's den in the sandpit or pretending to prepare meals in the home corner. Children take part in water play and small-world activities with enthusiasm.

Children show growing independence. They have a go at putting on their own coats, pour drinks from jugs, and select their own snacks. They tidy away resources, naturally sweep the floor after sand spillages and put their lunchboxes away with a little prompting. Children help themselves to toys and contribute to setting up activities such as taking pans of water to fill up the water dispenser in the mud kitchen. These opportunities enable children to develop practical skills and it helps increase their confidence and self-esteem.

Care & Development — Adequate

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Since the last inspection nappy changing procedures have improved. Staff ensure changes are carried out in an area that provides children with adequate dignity. Staff are familiar with the nappy changing policy, and a clear changing procedure is displayed on the wall to support their practice. We did not see any nappy changes during our visit. However, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of how to carry out the procedures hygienically.

Staff maintain appropriate cleaning routines and check that children wash their hands before eating and after toileting. Staff conduct appropriate fire drills frequently and at various times of the day, including during after-school sessions so that all staff and children know what to do in an emergency. Outdoor play is given a high priority with staff encouraging the outdoors to be used as much as possible to promote fresh air and physical activity.

Staff model positive behaviour and create a calm atmosphere. They engage warmly with children, join in play, and use conversation to extend learning. They praise good behaviour consistently and remind children gently when rules need to be followed, such as walking rather than running indoors. Staff make mealtimes sociable by sitting with children and encourage them to talk about things of interest. They respond promptly to children's needs and adapt activities to keep children engaged. Staff support new children appropriately by working closely with parents and encouraging them to bring their children to settling in sessions.

Environment — Adequate

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Leaders ensure the environment is safe for children. There is controlled access through the school's main entrance, and all visitors are asked to sign in on arrival so that all people in the building can be accounted for. Since the last inspection, leaders have improved risk assessments and completed them for nearly all areas. Staff understood the potential risks associated with the new outdoor area and minimise them appropriately. However, they had not yet added the new outdoor area to the current risk assessment.

Leaders ensure the environment is well maintained. Toys, equipment and resources are clean, in good condition, and are developmentally appropriate for the children who attend the setting.

Leadership & Management — Adequate

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Leaders demonstrate a suitable understanding of their roles and regulatory responsibilities. They show familiarity with the National Minimum Standards and have begun to maintain a printed copy alongside an evidence folder that demonstrates how they ensure appropriate requirements are being met. Leaders ensure suitable policies and procedures are followed and updated as needed. The statement of purpose reflects the setting well and after some minor amendments it meets regulations. Leaders have made significant improvements since the last inspection and addressed all issues set out in the priority action notice.

Leaders actively monitor the setting and ensure staff are carrying out their roles appropriately. The responsible individual liaises with the person in charge regularly to provide ongoing oversight. Leaders also notify Care Inspectorate Wales of significant events, including notifications relating to building work and staff changes.

Leaders are preparing for the next quality of care review and have already begun gathering the views of parents, staff, and children. Leaders also listen to and consult with external agencies such as Early Years Wales to support improvement.

Leaders follow safe recruitment procedures and keep all required information in staff files. Staff hold appropriate childcare qualifications, and many staff have recently attended full Paediatric First Aid training. Leaders conduct annual appraisals appropriately and provide supervision informally on an ongoing basis.

We did not look at the recommendations given at the last inspection. Therefore, these remain in place.

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.

CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.

CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.

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

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