Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Little Steps Childcare Centre Ltd

Bro Tawe
Ffordd Yr Afon
Ystradgynlais
SA9 1BU

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

22/09/2021

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About Little Steps Childcare Centre Ltd

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Steps Childcare Centre Limited
Registered places	61
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 April 2021
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a nursery that is working towards the 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.'

Summary

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider the themes in detail.

Children have a strong voice and are very confident communicators. They have a strong sense of belonging and are settled and happy. Interactions between children and nursery staff are stimulating and children co-operate well. Children are developing good independence skills through play and learning experiences.

Nursery staff understand and implement policies and procedures to promote personal safety. They fully understand the behaviour policy and implement consistent positive behaviour strategies for children. Nursery staff are consistently responsive and fully engage with children.

The nursery environment is clean, safe and secure. People running the nursery have arrangements in place to keep children safe and healthy. They provide an extensive indoor and outdoor play space for children to move freely and explore a range of age of resources suitable for children's age and stages of development.

People running the nursery ensure they comply with all applicable regulations and exceed the National Minimum Standards. They regularly review their policies and procedures, and set high expectations for nursery staff. Safeguarding is a high priority for the people running the nursery. Partnerships are consistently good.

Well-being

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

Children have a strong voice and are very confident communicators. They express themselves verbally and non-verbally. For example, the older children tell nursery staff what food they want and which food they do not like. Younger children show nursery staff that they wanted to play with the farm animals and choose to sit in the tent outdoors, looking at books. Children make their own decisions. They initiate their own learning by looking for animals and natural resources in tuff trays and taking turns on the slide.

Children have a strong sense of belonging and are settled and happy. Children proudly showed us stickers they had received from nursery staff. Children confidently access the outdoor environment. They hold hands and work together to look for insects under blocks of wood and get excited telling each other “Look! They love crawling on my hand!” Children feel that their needs are considered, and feel at ease with nursery staff. For example, children who were poorly felt comforted and calm when nursery staff gave them cuddles. Children who wanted their comfort toys during outdoor play knew their views would be respected.

Interactions between children and nursery staff are consistently stimulating and children co-operate well, and are actively engaged in play. They choose to play outdoors in the mud kitchen and play freely with bikes, trikes and in the woodland and outdoor sheltered areas. Children follow rules about sharing successfully. Children listened to nursery staff who prompted that they needed to share pens and pieces of paper.

Children are developing good independence skills through play and learning experiences. They understand their routines in regards to washing hands after being outdoors and before eating snacks.

Care and Development

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

Nursery staff understand and implement policies and procedures to promote personal safety. They follow robust risk assessments and have a good understanding of procedures. Nursery staff efficiently follow safeguarding procedures. They supervised children carefully whilst taking children on a walk in the local area. At pick up times, all staff fully followed the nursery's procedures to keep children safe and all current procedures are in place and sustained since the last inspection. Recently appointed nursery staff confirmed that they had read the policies and procedures before they started their role at the nursery.

Nursery staff fully understand the behaviour policy and implement consistent positive behaviour strategies for children. They manage children's behaviours by encouraging them to interact kindly and manage to distract them effectively when they want the same toys or resources. Nursery staff provide positive interactions with children. They continuously praise children. For example, they made children feel valued, giving them stickers for good work. Nursery staff demonstrate warmth towards children and are sensitive to children's needs. They embraced children who were feeling poorly and as a result, children felt much better.

Nursery staff are consistently responsive and fully engage with children at all times. They enthusiastically take part in activities that children are interested in and develop children's vocabulary in Welsh and English. For example, nursery staff encouraged children to recognise colours, names of animals and insects bilingually. Nursery staff encourage children's engagement in language activities. Those who care for younger children, celebrated when children repeated letter sounds and animal noises. Nursery staff working outdoors with older children managed to engage children's interests during story time reading a book about 'My friend bear'.

Environment

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

The nursery environment is secure. All indoor and outdoor areas are fully secure with locks on gates and a security system in place whereby children cannot leave the premises and unauthorised persons cannot access the setting.

People running the nursery have arrangements in place to keep children safe and healthy. They have robust risk assessments for all indoor and outdoor environment and school runs. People running the nursery reduce the risks of cross-infection by ensuring procedures are in place for cleaning, hand washing and sanitising stations which are readily available indoors and outdoors.

People running the nursery provide an extensive indoor play space for children to move freely and explore. They have labelled resources for children with suitable bilingual words. There are displays promoting bilingual vocabulary for months of the year and colours. There is a celebration of children's independent artwork on the walls inside the nursery. Children actively use the outdoor play space as often as possible and is an extension to the learning environment. There is a newly built outdoor classroom and a forest school facility, which they are continuously developing. People running the nursery 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.

Leadership and Management

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

People running the nursery ensure they comply with all applicable regulations and exceed the National Minimum Standards. They are very knowledgeable about their regulatory responsibilities and continuously drive improvement. People running the nursery regularly review and update their individualised polices and fully implement these in practice. They ensure all new and current nursery staff read the policies and procedures during a robust induction period. They set high expectations and inspire teams effectively. People running the nursery ask staff to read policies before staff meetings and they discuss and test their knowledge and understanding of policies and procedures, during these meetings, especially potential safeguarding scenarios. Safeguarding is high priority for the people running the nursery. People running the nursery now record the name of the person who has collected each child on the signing out sheet.

People running the nursery regularly engage and take responsibility to notify Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) of all significant changes in a timely manner. Those running the nursery consistently ensure that staff are deployed effectively to ensure staffing ratios are met.

People running the nursery continue to have very good partnerships with parents and outside agencies and authorities. Nursery staff provided positive feedback to parents on collection of their children at pick up times and parents were happy with the feedback given. People running the nursery are working with the Welsh Government’s pilot scheme to develop a new curriculum for the nursery. An Additional Learning Needs (ALN) coordinator has been appointed and has regard to the new ALN framework.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved	
The responsible individual must ensure that all staff closely supervise children at nursery pick up time.	Regulation 20 (1) (b)

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved	
None	

Areas where priority action is required	
None	

Areas where improvement is required	
None	

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