



Inspection Report

Little Unicorns Daycare

**Nyddfa Yard
Pengam
Blackwood
NP12 3UZ**



Date Inspection Completed

05/02/2024

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About Little Unicorns Daycare

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Unicorns Daycare Limited
Registered places	40
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	03 November 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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.

Summary

This was a focused inspection. On this occasion we have not considered all themes in detail. These will be considered in full at the next inspection.

Most children make choices about how they wish to play and they show enjoyment in their play and learning. Most children are learning social skills such as sharing, and turn taking and have opportunities to develop their independence.

Staff are calm and considerate and build nurturing relationships with the children. They implement policies and procedures effectively and are aware of children's individual needs. They encourage play to be child led and manage children's behaviour in a positive manner.

The environment is spacious and has a good range of resources to engage children in play.

Leadership has improved and previous areas of non compliance have been addressed. They have improved the medications procedures and leaders ensure staff understand and implement the relevant processes. The Statement of Purpose has been updated and staff files contain the required information. However, not all significant events have been shared with Care Inspectorate Wales and this will be an area for improvement. Recommendations from the previous inspection were not tested and therefore will be considered at the next inspection.

Well-being

Children have a good range of opportunities available to them and can choose where and how they spend their time at the setting. Older children move around the rooms freely choosing from the activities and resources available to them whilst younger children explore the baby room. Children are confident to communicate in a variety of ways according to their age and stage of development, as they know they will receive a response. For example, very young babies smiled when a member of staff responded to them speaking a new word. Older children ask for songs during singing time and sing along confidently.

Children are settled and happy. They know the staff well, so they feel relaxed in their care. We saw children cuddling staff in the baby room and older children chatting happily to staff whilst playing in the sand and water. They form positive friendships that help them feel happy and secure.

Most children interact with each other well and some younger children are beginning to learn the importance of sharing and taking turns. Children play alongside each other and wait for resources to become available to them. For example, children waited patiently to do painting and were told it would soon be their turn. Some children need reminding about how to play inside the setting. We saw a child start to climb on the table, however they listened and responded positively when staff asked them to come down.

Children show enjoyment as they play and choose activities. For example, some children showed excitement when playing in the messy play area. Children have increased opportunities to follow their interests and extend their learning through their play. We saw older children developing their fine motor skills with the pipets and tweezers in the water play. Children focus on a task for an appropriate length of time for their age and stage of development. For example, some children persist for a longer period when learning to use chopsticks to pick up lentils and place them in different containers whilst younger children enjoyed scooping them up and tipping them out.

Children have opportunities to develop their skills and confidence. Younger children are given support when needed, whilst older children are encouraged to be more independent. For example, we saw a child try to put their shoes on and was supported by staff who then praised them for having a go themselves.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full. Care and development will be looked at more closely at the next inspection.

Staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe and implement the policies and procedures effectively. They demonstrate a good understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and the action they need to take should they have a concern about a child. Staff keep children safe and healthy. Staff follow infection control procedures by washing hands after changing a nappy and wiping a child's nose. They complete regular hygiene procedures such as washing tables, cleaning cups/beakers and brushing floors. Staff accurately complete relevant records in relation to accidents and incidents. We observed staff administer medication in line with their medication policy and medication records are now filled in accurately by staff and signed by parents. Staff also confirmed they have a clear understanding of how to record and administer medication. This demonstrates that the setting is now compliant with Regulation 26 as the provider is now administering medication safely and recording it accurately.

Staff interact positively with the children and engage in a warm and gentle way. For example, children were praised for their efforts when painting and doing the actions at singing time. Staff display a good understanding of the behaviour management policy. We saw staff implement behaviour strategies, using gentle reminders, distraction methods and praise to reinforce positive behaviour. They act as good role models, promoting good manners and respect for each other and the children.

Staff provide suitable resources and activities for children to support their learning and development. They promote independence well and encourage children to do things for themselves, offering support when necessary. Staff promote children's curiosity through activities and real-life resources. They plan activities to provide opportunities and experiences to celebrate other cultures and religions. For example, they celebrated the Chinese New Year by playing a game and matching different Chinese symbols. Staff also provided chop sticks through a messy play activity and traditional Chinese clothes were in the role play area for children to dress up in.

Environment

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

However, the environment is light, spacious and secure. It has appropriate facilities and equipment to support children's play and learning.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full and recommendations from the previous inspection will be tested at the next inspection.

Leadership within the service has strengthened since the last inspection and regulatory matters identified at the previous inspection have been successfully addressed. They have effective measures and procedures in place to ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. Leaders review their policies and ensure that these are implemented in practice. There is an accurate statement of purpose so that parents are informed about the service offered and can make an informed choice about its suitability for the needs of their children. Leaders ensure that daily records are maintained accurately, for example, registers are completed promptly for both staff and children and accidents or incidents are recorded efficiently.

However, leaders have not provided full information to Care Inspectorate Wales, regarding all significant events. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders implement self-evaluation of the service through consultations with parents, staff and children. They regularly audit daily records such as accident and incident records, however audits of medications are not accurate or robust.

Leaders follow timely and thorough recruitment processes to safeguard children. Staff files are well organised and contain all the required information. They have good systems in place to update suitability checks as needed and all safety checks are carried out for staff starting at the service; we saw evidence that references were proactively sought. This ensures that staff are suitable to care for children. They ensure that staff are deployed well to ensure staffing ratios and children's needs are met.

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
26	The provider must ensure that medication is administered safely and recorded accurately.	Achieved

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
31	The Registered Person has not informed the Welsh Ministers of all significant events. All notifiable events must be shared with the Welsh Ministers as soon as possible or no later than 14 days of the event occurring.	New
15	The statement of purpose must be updated to reflect who is in charge of the service on a daily basis.	Achieved
28	The provider must undertake robust recruitment checks prior to the member of staff commencing employment at the service.	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 12 - Food and drink	Ensure fresh drinking water is freely available to children at all times. Ensure breakfast choices are consistent.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure staff are aware of the importance of good hygiene practice in order to prevent the spread of infection.
Standard 23 - Equipment	Ensure older children have access to equipment, and resources that are appropriate and suitable for their needs.
Standard 24 - Safety	Fix the kitchen door to ensure it does not slam shut.
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Ensure children's views are evaluated in more detail within the quality of care review.
Standard 13 (Day Care) - Suitable Person	Ensure all paid staff receive regular one-to-one supervision and receive a formal appraisal at least once a year.

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)
Ensure all incident records and children's contracts are signed by managers.
Record how children's next steps in their development will be achieved.
Ensure all staff are aware, and follow all policies and procedures relating to the service.
Ensure medication records are audited effectively.

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