Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Fun Foundations at St Illtyd School

St. Illtyds Primary School & Nursery Unit
Station Road
Llantwit Major
CF61 1ST



Date Inspection Completed

06/10/2021

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About Fun Foundations at St Illtyd School

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Provider	Fun Foundations Day Nursery Ltd
Registered places	23
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Post registration inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet Welsh language needs of children who use, or intend to use the service

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have therefore focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full framework.

This setting is child centred with strong emphasis upon children directing their own play and learning. Children are settled and happy. They have opportunities to be independent and develop their skills through a range of play experiences. Children form close bonds with care staff and other children, making them feel safe and secure.

Care staff are appropriately qualified. They have a very good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Care staff implement policies and procedures well in response to Covid-19. They plan some activities, and organise resources, which stimulate and capture children's imaginations.

The environment is clean, welcoming and well organised. People who run this setting ensure the environment is well maintained and generally safe. A good variety of indoor and outdoor toys and resources are available for children.

Leadership and management of the setting is strong. They update policies and procedures regularly and understand their responsibilities to protect children. Staff recruitments checks comply with regulations and suitable staff development opportunities are in place. Partnerships are good.

Well-being — No Rating Required

Children feel confident to make choices and decisions for themselves. They choose activities freely and make choices about what they have to eat and where they sit at snack times. Children's voice is strong and care staff listen to them. For example, children asked to have the ping-pong table out, and staff set it up.

Children are happy, settled and feel secure. They have close relationships with care staff who work closely with them. Some children like to stay close to familiar staff and enjoy cuddles with them. Children smile when care staff praise them for sorting resources, doing nice painting and helping younger children.

Children's interactions are positive. Older children are considerate and kind and help younger children to make room at the table so they can paint a picture. Children engage and have fun with activities of their choice. For example, they do roly poly's in the relaxation room and laugh and giggle as they create dens and hide behind the mats. Children are developing good friendships and good self-esteem in what they do. For example, when playing ping-pong, a child said "*oh I'm hopeless at this*" and their friend responded with "*no you're not!*" .

Children have regular exercise and fresh air, and value the time they spend outdoors in all weather conditions. They excitedly use the balanced bikes and climbing equipment, developing good physical skills. Children also enjoy independent activities where they engage in colouring activities. Older children played a game of Mr Wolf outdoors, and encouraged almost all the other children to join with them.

Children are developing their independence skills appropriate to their age, stage and abilities. Children access the toileting area, washing hands before eating and after playing outdoors.

Care and Development — No Rating Required

Care staff understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe and healthy. They implement appropriate cleaning and hygiene practices. Staff make sure all children wash their hands before eating. They use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to prepare foods for children. They implement the Welsh Government's 'Protective Measures in Childcare Settings' appropriately and follow daily checks and weekly cleaning routines. Care staff sanitise table surfaces before snack times.

Care staff have received current training on safeguarding children, and discussions with care staff demonstrate that they understand the need for good safeguarding practices and understand the correct procedures to follow if they have a child protection concern. The care staff have received the latest training on paediatric first aid. We saw staff administer first aid to a child who had been hurt, record the incident and contact the parent. Care staff provide healthy snacks and the setting has good food preparation procedures. They hold regular fire drills, ensuring that everyone involved knows how to leave the site in an emergency safely. Care staff understand their roles and responsibilities for keeping the children safe and healthy and give safety messages to children when needed. For example, when a child stood on the sofa to jump off, they were told not to as they may hurt themselves.

Experienced and qualified staff care for children effectively and meet their individual needs well. Care staff understand the behaviour policy and implement behaviour management strategies when needed. Care staff manage interactions positively. They praise children consistently. *"Well done and thank you for helping me tidy up."* Care staff demonstrated warmth towards children. They offer company if they are alone and provide cuddles to younger children who are unhappy, which made the children immediately feel at ease.

Care staff work together very well to meet the needs of children effectively. Care staff know the children well, and respond to them in a sensitive way. They know that some children prefer to play alone and do not want to join in and they respected this. They promote children's Welsh language development through some incidental Welsh during their play.

Environment — No Rating Required

People who run this setting generally have good measures in place to ensure the environment is safe and secure. They have robust risk assessments and are aware of the safety and welfare of children most of the time. However, a large easel outdoors had not been removed prior to children accessing the yard. Their infection prevention control practices minimise risks to children's health and safety during Covid-19. People who run the setting have implemented good practices, where there are daily cleaning and risk assessments in place. They regularly review fire risk assessments, and emergency procedures are in place. General maintenance checks are up to date.

The environment is suitable, accessible and well maintained. There is a spacious well-ventilated indoor area where children can dine and play. Toileting facilities are suitable and provide for children's privacy and dignity. They supply liquid soap and separate paper towels in all areas.

People running this setting provide a good range of play opportunities suitable for all the age ranges cared for. There is a range of table top games, art and craft resources, books, computer games, construction toys, Lego and a snooker table. There is a very spacious outdoor environment with opportunities to develop independence, and physical, and social skills. There are larger play apparatus, which include climbing frames and balance bikes. People running the setting told us they provide multicultural activities which promote awareness of different cultures and diversity.

Leadership and Management — No Rating Required

People who run the setting have a strong vision that they share with others. They maintain and share an up to date statement of purpose that accurately reflects the setting and meets regulations and national minimum standards. People running the setting are knowledgeable on their regulatory responsibilities and regularly review their policies and procedures. They accurately keep the required records. Public liability insurance is current and displayed.

People running the setting actively encourage their care staff and challenge their performance. They conduct regular, purposeful supervisions and appraisals and ensure their mandatory training is in date. People running the setting follow safe recruitment process to safeguard children and have a very good understanding about keeping children safe. People running the setting have ensured that all suitability checks and DBS certificates are in place before recruiting new care staff as well as ensuring care staff are suitably qualified and deployed well to meet staff to child ratios. Care staff feel fully supported by people running the setting and feel their professional development is consistently ongoing.

People running the setting notify and engage with Care Inspectorate Wales. They seek views from children and parents annually through questionnaires as well as consult with children about what they want to do and share ideas about new activities they can do. Care staff also share their views regularly through regular supervisions. They have good processes in place to deal with any concerns in a timely manner.

Partnerships with parents are good. Parents feel well informed of policies and procedures. Parents are very happy with the care provided by the setting's care staff. They told us that their children enjoy going to the setting, especially the craft activities, and quoted '*The staff are fab and are doing a really good job!*"

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Ensure all potential risks to children are identified and removed at all times.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

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	

Date Published 19/11/2021