Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

ASD Rainbows

The Annex At Perthcelyn Communities At Work
Glamorgan Street
Perthcelyn
Mountain Ash
CF45 3RJ



Date Inspection Completed

09/06/2023

About ASD Rainbows

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Provider	ASD Rainbows
Registered places	12
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is a post registration inspection.
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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	**Excellent**
Care and Development	**Excellent**
Environment	**Excellent**
Leadership and Management	**Excellent**

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at ASD Rainbows and their happiness and voice is the driving force of this setting. Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a range of interesting opportunities which spark curiosity and engagement. Children are well supported in developing independence.

Staff are professional, well qualified and passionate about their roles. They implement the setting's policies and procedures effectively. Staff are extremely patient, kind and caring towards each other and the children. They are committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities with an appropriate balance of child and adult led opportunities.

The premises is safe and maintained to a high standard. There is very good indoor play space which children explore freely. The space is thoughtfully organised to meet the children's needs. People who run the setting ensure the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is an extension to the learning environment. They provide stimulating and innovative resources for all ages and stages of development.

Leadership and management of the setting is excellent. The management team is strong and passionate about providing an outstanding service. There is an extensive range of policies and procedures to support the running of the service, which are updated regularly. Parents we spoke to were extremely happy with the level of care provided to their children and families.

Well-being Excellent

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at ASD Rainbows and their happiness and voice is the driving force of this setting. All attempts at communication are valued and actively encouraged. Some children are confident enough to communicate with us and were keen to engage us in their activities. For example, one child welcomed us with a *"Good morning"* and requested we read them a story. Children's wishes and interests are highly valued, acted upon and continually reviewed. Non-verbal children continually show staff what they want. For example, some children lead staff by the hands to the area or activity they wish to play with. Children are given the opportunity to express how they are feeling. One child answered that they were tired and happy when asked how they were feeling. Children's voices are strong at the setting.

Children are happy and settled. They cope extremely well with separation. Efficient and thorough daily transitions fully recognise and support individual needs and are effectively implemented. They form positive emotional attachments with staff. Children who are unsettled are given individual, patient care and attention. For example, one child who was unsettled was taken to the sensory room, where they quickly calmed. Children are given frequent reminders about the running order of the day and what comes next. As a result, they are familiar with the routines of the day. They join in with circle time and positively engage with work time.

Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a range of interesting opportunities which spark curiosity and engagement. They have the freedom to safely explore the indoor and outdoor environment. Children willingly engage with adult-led focused tasks. They decide how much time they spend in 'work time' and choose when to return to free play or other activities. Children benefit form adult-led activities which are carefully planned for individual development. Some children show good concentration skills and engage with activities for an age-appropriate length of time.

Children are well supported in developing independence. They are encouraged to take care of their belongings, with some children finding their own hooks to hang up their coats and bags. They ably feed themselves at snack time and use various strategies to communicate to staff the order which they would like to eat their food. Some children independently wash their hands before snack time. They choose which activities and toys they would like to play with.

Care and Development — Excellent

Staff implement procedures to a very high standard to keep children safe and promote their development and well-being. They have a clear understanding of the safeguarding procedures and their responsibilities to keep children safe and report any concerns. Staff have easy access to children's information and have sound knowledge of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They are confident in recording accidents, incidents and existing injuries. However, not all incidents or accidents are signed for by parents. Staff ensure children have access to daily outdoor play experiences, offering them the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air. Staff practise fire drills with children so that they know what to do in an emergency.

A highly motivated and skilled team of staff treat children with kindness and respect. They are affectionate and gentle with the children providing comfort and cuddles when children seek this type of interaction. Staff provide nurturing care and are focused on understanding what children want and understanding all attempts at communication. Staff take time to connect with children and unlock what they are trying to communicate. Staff persist until children are satisfied and their needs are fully met. This is a real strength of the team of staff. Staff frequently talk to each other about the children, offering support and ideas when children become unsettled for example. They have good relationships and communicate well with each other. This ensures children are appropriately supervised and supported throughout the day. They use lots of praise to encourage and reinforce positive behaviour and skilfully use a range of strategies, such as negotiation and distraction to excellent effect.

Staff have excellent skills and knowledge to identify children's individual needs and plan appropriate play and learning opportunities. They support children's learning and development very well. They plan a wide range of focused individual tasks, adult led activities and free play opportunities. Focused tasks are specific to the needs and next steps of each child. Staff's practice during focused tasks is exemplary. Staff use simple language patterns to achieve clear objectives with the children. They use praise effectively and are also flexible to children who wish to stay longer and change the objectives of the task. As a result, children eagerly and willingly engage in work time. Staff are quick to seize moments which children initiate and then motivate and inspire them to explore their curiosity and play. For example, they responded quickly to a child who had dressed up but needed a crown. Craft equipment was quickly provided for the child and assistance given in the creation of a crown. Staff are committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities with an appropriate balance of child and adult-led opportunities.

Environment — Excellent

The premises are safe and maintained to a high standard. The entrance is secure and locked doors ensure only authorised access is granted by members of staff. In-depth, comprehensive risk assessments are in place for the premises and activities carried out. Staff keep children safe by completing daily safety checks of the environment to identify and where possible eliminate risks to children's safety. Staff are vigilant about any arising risks in the environment. The indoor and outdoor environments are secure and provide a good space for children to play and learn.

The environment is extremely welcoming and very child friendly. It provides bright, spacious, and exciting areas for children to explore and develop. People who run the setting ensure the environment meets the children's needs and enables them to reach their full potential. For example, an innovative interactive sensory room, provides a space for children to calm and self-regulate. The main playroom is very well organised to promote all areas of children's development. The playroom is used flexibly, and staff continually assess the impact on children. For example, careful consideration has been given to the area for focused tasks ensuring this area is quieter and there are less distractions. The space is used to motivate children to reach their potential. Motivating toys are stored on higher shelving meaning non-verbal children are encouraged to use their picture exchange communication system to request these items. People who run the setting ensure the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is an extension to the learning environment. Quality outdoor resources and play equipment, challenge and stimulate children's curiosity and interest. People who run the setting have plans in place to further develop the outdoor area by extending the garden area to include planters and involve the children in gardening activities.

People who run the setting provide a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources to ensure children have good variety and choice. They provide stimulating and innovative resources for all stages of development. The setting has suitable furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs and low-level toy storage. There are a suitable number of children's toilets and nappy changing facilities available, which are very clean and well maintained. Soap and hand drying facilities are easily accessible to support children's independence when addressing their personal care.

Leadership and Management — Excellent

Leadership and management of the setting is inspiring. People who run the setting display determination, passion and a clear vision for the service they provide. They work tirelessly to maintain high standards and to secure funding for the continuation of the service. The statement of purpose is clear and accurately reflects the service provided to children and their families. There is an extensive range of policies and procedures to support the running of the service which are updated regularly. People who run the setting engage positively with Care Inspectorate Wales.

People who run the setting ensure that documentation is well organised and easily accessible. At the time of our visit, not all the required statutory information was held within each staff file. This was quickly rectified, and staff files are now complete and hold the requisite information. Staff speak of an 'open door' policy with managers. They receive regular supervisions and annual appraisals. However, supervisions are not always recorded formally. There is a detailed quality of care report in place which clearly identifies what is done well and sets targets to further drive improvement.

Staff have up to date mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. Staff receive additional training to further assist them in their specialist roles, for example, autism awareness and PECS (picture exchange communication system). There are enough qualified and experienced staff to ensure children are well cared for at all times. Generally staffing levels exceed minimum standards. Staff we spoke with told us they enjoyed working at the nursery and they felt supported by the management team.

Excellent links have been developed between staff and parents. Parents we spoke with told us they were extremely happy with the care provided to their children. There are excellent forms of communication between the setting and parents including detailed daily verbal feedback. People who use the service told us, *"I can't praise the nursery enough for all their hard work and support. My child thrives here. The staff are very special people who always show kindness, support, care, understanding, wisdom, knowledge and happiness. I appreciate how much of a huge role they've played in our lives."* The people who run the setting have positive relationships with a range of professionals and other stakeholders.

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

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 5 - Records	Ensure parents or carers sign the record of any accidents / incidents to acknowledge the entry.

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)
Keep written records of staff supervisions.

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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