Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Little Acorns Day Care Ltd

Ysgol Bryn Clwyd
Llandyrnog
Denbigh
LL16 4HG



Date Inspection Completed

19/11/2021

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About Little Acorns Day Care Ltd

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Acorns Day Care Ltd
Registered places	19
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	N/A First inspection since registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

Well-being	**Good**
Care and Development	**Good**
Environment	**Excellent**
Leadership and Management	**Excellent**

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

Summary

Children are very happy and have formed warm relationships with staff and each other. They enjoy their time at the service and are confident to let staff know what they want. Children have an excellent range of experiences and have plenty of opportunities to choose.

Staff know how to keep children safe and healthy. They support individual children in a warm and highly positive manner. They are kind and friendly and exceptionally calm. Staff plan a range of activities that are exceptionally interesting which help children to learn and develop their skills. Staff thoughtfully plan activities in line with children's interests.

People who run the service provide a safe and comfortable environment for children with exceptional learning opportunities and ensure hazards and risks are monitored and managed effectively. They provide a range of outstanding natural resources and experiences for children to help themselves to which are highly effective developing their social, physical and creative skills and provide exceptional learning opportunities.

People who run the service manage the provision very well and understand their regulatory responsibilities. Documents and suitability checks are kept up to date and parents are kept well informed about their children's development. There are highly successful partnerships with the school and local community.

Well-being — Good

Children are happy and settled. They move around the natural resources and activities freely and can choose for themselves as everything is stored within their reach. They are happy to follow their own interests and to show what they want. For example, by pointing to a football and taking it outside. Children can choose whether to play inside or outside.

Children have formed warm relationships with staff and each other. They feel secure and are confident, for example, some were confident speakers telling us about siblings in the school and others took our hand to show us what they were doing with Pudsey bear. Children are happy to approach staff for comfort, and are provided with positive words of encouragement and help to sort a disagreement when needed.

Most children share resources and play alongside each other well. They happily chat to the staff about what they are doing and are eager to involve them in their play. For example, when looking for shapes in the sensory tray they chatted to staff about what they had found. They also enjoy spending quieter times relaxing on the comfy chairs or lying on the rug in front of the fire. Children have freedom to join activities or choose something different.

Children have an excellent range of experiences and are able to choose to spend time outdoors. They use the small garden daily along with the school yard and field. They have good opportunities to develop physically and socially as they can meet up with siblings from school. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves, such as helping to put resources away and putting on their own coats. This helps them to gain confidence and promotes their independence.

Care and Development — Good

Staff understand their responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. Several staff members also work in school so they are very familiar with the correct procedures to follow should there be any concerns about a child. Documentation records accidents and parents are made aware. Staff ensure regular safety checks are undertaken and fire drills are completed with the school.

Staff promote a healthy way of life by providing children with snacks and the option of a school lunch which they eat in the hall alongside their brothers and sisters. However the snacks provided are not always the best healthy options. Staff ensure children wash their hands, such as after using the toilet and before eating, promoting good hygiene.

Staff have built highly positive relationships with the children. They are kind and friendly and deal with any unwanted behaviour exceptionally calmly and fairly. They use positive ways to support individual children if they begin to show any difficulties with sharing. For example, by clearly and simply explaining how sharing works and showing younger children how to include a friend. If this does not work then by providing children with a duplicate resource is usually successful.

Staff plan a range of activities that are exceptionally interesting such as threading lemon slices onto sticks which help children to learn and develop their skills. Staff thoughtfully plan activities in line with children's interests or a theme such as Children in need. Planning and observations were being reviewed to create a more streamlined and more effective record. Staff keep parents well informed, ensuring they are kept up to date with their child's progress and important information about their time at the setting.

Environment — Excellent

People who run the service provide a clean and safe environment for children. A small exciting garden has been developed outside the room, and children can move freely between indoors or outdoors to play. Risk assessments are in place outlining any potential hazards to children including the fire and the measures put in place to manage these.

People who run the service ensure they provide an excellent range of resources for children to choose from outdoors including re cycled, natural and life size equipment such as brass jugs for water play. The large outdoor play area offers plenty of space for children to play and explore and meet older siblings and friends to share ball games and develop their physical skills. Indoors there is an outstanding range of natural and interesting resources such as sand in a large suitcase, real fruit and vegetables displayed in hessian covered boxes for children to explore and enjoy sensory experiences as well as using them to discover exciting shapes for printing.

People who run the service have a range of inspiring ways to help younger children's independence skills. For example, aprons are hung on a wooden oar for children to easily access and put on themselves. All items are exceptionally well organised and kept safely in wooden boxes and individually styled crates stored at low level so children can reach equipment independently and develop their play.

Leadership and Management — Excellent

People who run the service have a sound understanding of their role and regulatory responsibilities and provides a range of clear and informative policies to enable the service to run safely and effectively. The statement of purpose reflects the service offered, providing parents with plenty of information to make an informed choice. The documentation also reflects procedures put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic, keeping parents up to date with changes.

People who run the service have a very clear and inspiring vision of how they want the service to be. They actively seek feedback and innovative and exciting changes and new ideas which improve outcomes for the children.

All disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check are valid and up to date. Records provided showed all information about the children prior to them attending had been sought. This allows to plan effectively to meet children's individual needs. Staff work together well and regularly discuss planning and how to improve learning outcomes for the children.

There is an excellent partnership with the school with whom the service shares resources such as the outdoor area and the school hall for lunch. The service is an integral part of the school and staff are available to help if needed. Some staff also work in the school and this strengthens the relationship between the two services and makes transition for the younger children exceptionally easy. There is a good relationship with the community and recently the children joined in a local event by making a scarecrow as part of a competition. This creation features part of a horse and rider jumping the school hedge and is a talking point in the village.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 To consider the nutritional guidance for early years settings to ensure all snack options are healthy.

R2 To continue to develop assessment and planning documentation.

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	N/A

	inspection	

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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