Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

St Cadocs Flying Start

St. Cadocs Primary School
Shaw Close Llanrumney
Cardiff
CF3 5NX



Date Inspection Completed

20/03/2025

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About St Cadocs Flying Start

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Darling Buds FS Limited
Registered places	37
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is a post registration inspection report
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is not making a significant effort to promote the use of Welsh language and culture.

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

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

Summary

Children have a strong voice and know their attempts at communication is recognised by staff. They are extremely happy and really enjoy their time at the setting. Children engage meaningfully in the excellent opportunities for play and learning. They develop important skills within an extremely nurturing setting. Children interact well and form close bonds with their peers and staff.

Staff provide a warm and friendly child-centred setting. They are extremely professional and work seamlessly together as part of a team. Staff understand how to keep children safe and effectively promote children's health and development. Staff provide an interesting variety of stimulating and fun activities, to support children's learning.

Staff care for children in an environment which is spacious, clean and secure. The indoor and outdoor areas are welcoming and friendly and provide a rich environment for play and learning. Staff use the space and facilities effectively to meet the needs of the children.

The leadership and management of the setting is strong. Leaders at this service are enthusiastic and committed to providing high quality childcare. They have processes in place to ensure staff are fully involved in working together to provide good quality care for children. Leaders have strong partnerships with parents and other agencies which support good outcomes for children.

Well-being	**Excellent**

Children have a strong voice and have many opportunities to make choices. They decide what they would like to play with from the activities on offer. Children choose freely from a broad range of developmentally appropriate and stimulating resources which promote their all-round development. Some children choose to spend most of their time outside in the garden area whilst others happily explore the indoors. A child enthusiastically told us they wanted to look for worms, before digging in the mud and proudly showing his friends and staff, when he found one.

Children are happy, relaxed and develop a very strong sense of belonging. They develop strong attachments with their key staff, seeking them out for comfort when they need it. Children from different cultures, who celebrate special festivals at home with their families, are recognised and celebrated in the setting. They are encouraged to share their individual experiences so everyone at the nursery can be part of their special cultural events. This ensures all children and families feel valued and included. It promotes a great feeling of togetherness, as well as teaching children about different cultures and religions.

Children effectively interact with each other and staff. For example, younger children sit next to each other when playing with the dinosaurs whilst older children take turns to build a tower before knocking their friend's tower over and giggling together. We heard children confidently call their friends and staff names and enthusiastically invite them to play. Children freely explore the environment and successfully engage in individual and group activities. They show respect towards their environment and each other. Children listen well when told not to run inside and follow instructions when told how to treat the pet fish.

Children are curious learners; they are motivated, animated and engaged in their play and learning. They enjoy interesting and stimulating opportunities, concentrating for extended periods of time. For example, some children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the water tray, scooping up the lemons and limes into cups and smelling the water. They are motivated to make their own choices and direct their own play. Children feel very secure by knowing the daily routines and confidently respond to directions from staff. We saw children enthusiastically join in when tidying up at the end of the session and sit on the carpet to listen to a story and sing familiar nursery rhymes.

Children have extensive opportunities to develop their independence skills; enabling them to do things for themselves successfully and to problem solve effectively. Children pour their own drinks at snack time and older children use the toilets and wash their hands on their own. Nearly all children have a go at putting coats on to go outside whilst older children pack away their lunch boxes after they finish eating.

Care and Development — Excellent

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. The setting has a range of policies, procedures and documentation in place which staff follow when carrying out their roles. There is a thorough safeguarding policy and

procedure in place. Staff confidently told us what they would do if they dealt with a concern. This demonstrates a good understanding of their responsibilities and commitment to deal with safeguarding matters. Staff follow and promote thorough hygiene practices. For example, they actively encourage children to independently wash their hands, before eating and after blowing their noses, instilling good hygiene practices from an early age. Staff are confident when recording, maintaining, and reviewing a range of records including, accident, incident, existing injuries and medication logs.

Staff offer healthy and well-balanced snacks which are freshly prepared each day. There are procedures in place for dealing with children with allergies, intolerances, and dietary preferences. At mealtimes staff promote worthwhile opportunities for children to talk about their day, ensuring it is a relaxed, social and an enjoyable experience. Staff promote children's physical development through daily access to the outdoor play environment.

Staff interact with children in a calm and caring manner. They act as good role models and know children very well. We heard staff comment that they loved a child's jumper they were wearing to which the child smiled and looked delighted. Staff work with parents in their key worker groups to gather important information about children prior to them starting. Staff use this key information to ensure children's home language and culture is celebrated and promoted. Staff offer praise and encouragement and implement the behaviour management policy effectively by using positive reinforcement. They ensure children know what is expected of them by clearly explaining instructions and consequences. We heard staff praise children when they helped clear up a spilled drink, *"Well done, thank you my friends!"* and encourage children to say please and thank you.

Staff offer a range of well-planned activities which support children's curiosity. They engage skilfully with children during activities and play. For example, during story time staff talk about the character and their different feelings, telling children; *"Let's stamp our feet as if we're really angry".* Children's progress is tracked through observations which are then used to plan for the next stages of learning. Staff support children with additional needs very well, modifying activities and the daily routine to ensure it best suits their needs. They support children's language skills, including some Welsh songs and simple words.

Environment — Good

Leaders provide a safe, well-maintained, and welcoming environment. They have detailed risk assessments for most areas of the environment and many activities, and these are reviewed on a regular basis. During the inspection visit we observed a fish tank positioned near an electrical outlet. Leaders assured us they would review this situation immediately. Leaders ensure that annual safety and maintenance checks are completed in a timely manner. There is a secure system for entry to the setting and staff ensure that all visitors are signed into the service. Staff complete daily checklists to identify any matters that need addressing such as health, safety, and hygiene. They have good infection control practices which successfully minimise the risk to children's health and safety. For example, staff wipe down tables before and after snack time and encourage all children to wash their hands before eating. Leaders practice fire drills frequently and maintain detailed records to ensure all staff and children can evacuate the building safely in the event of an emergency

Leaders have organised the space to a good standard, based around children's needs. They provide inviting, well-equipped areas that are light and decorated in neutral colours with some natural materials. A large sofa area provides children with opportunity to relax and be calm and acts as a comforting place for children to sit and observe others play. Leaders have designed the environment so that children have the option to play in the outdoor area when they choose to. The outside environment provides an appealing area for children to play in the fresh air and develop a range of physical skills. There is a canopy area outside which provides shade and shelter. We saw children develop physical activities such as climbing, digging, throwing and running whilst exploring the outside area.

Leaders ensure there is a range of resources to stimulate children's interest and imagination. Play resources are varied and suitable for the age of the children. Learning areas are set up to maintain children's interest and extend their skills. Staff have started to introduce some real-life resources into the role play area. The resources are easily accessible to children as they are visible and stored at their level. We observed children helping themselves to items from boxes in the storage units. There is appropriate furniture for children to sit at to undertake tabletop activities and eat their snacks. The toilets are child sized and support children to develop their independence skills. Some displays attractively present children's work and show photographs of children as well as multilingual words and phrases.

Leadership and Management — Good

Leaders have a clear vision for the nursery which they communicate successfully to all staff and parents. Staff work well together as a team, and they speak highly of each other. Leaders deliver high quality care and provide learning and development opportunities for staff as well as children. They have an effective statement of purpose that accurately reflects the service, and they ensure staff embed the relevant policies and procedures within the setting. Leaders collect, record and maintain all the required information in relation to staff and children. They record children's preferences and have the appropriate parental permissions in place.

Leaders implement effective systems to support meaningful self-evaluation and plan for improvement. They are approachable and welcome any ideas or suggestions to improve their practice. Leaders of the setting complete a thorough quality of care review each year and consider the views of staff, parents, children and outside agencies. The review highlights their strengths and areas they would like to build on. Leaders evaluate day to day records, for example accident and incident records, to identify any trends, and monitor where and how these are happening at the setting.

Leaders are enthusiastic and motivated. They follow robust recruitment procedures to safeguard children and ensure staff have most necessary qualifications and experience to effectively care for children. Although staff we spoke with had a good understanding of their responsibilities to safeguard children, not all of them currently have the required safeguarding qualification in line with National Minimum Standards. Leaders set high expectations and lead staff effectively, supporting them in understanding their roles and responsibilities. They undertake regular appraisals and supervisions that are integral to their practice and drive improvement. Leaders deploy staff effectively to ensure they meet staffing ratios, and as a result fully meet children's needs.

Leaders have developed strong partnerships with parents and carers, as well as other professionals and outside agencies. Leaders work with external partners to ensure they make ongoing improvements to the setting. Staff use a digital app to communicate with parents, which also allows them to respond or contact the nursery. Staff use the app to send photographs of their children at play and observational notes on children's development, which keeps parents well informed. Parents informed us that they feel *"staff are very approachable"* and they have a *"personal approach"* to each individual child and their families.

Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

National Minimum Standards

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.

Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 20 - Child protection	Ensure all staff have required safeguarding training in line with National Minimum Standards
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure health and safety regulations are complied with in relation to the fish tank location near an electric socket

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