



Inspection Report

Abergavenny Nursery

**Randalls Groundworks Ltd
Monmouth House
Northgate Park Road
Abergavenny
NP7 5TT**



Date Inspection Completed

28/01/2025

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2025.

You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

About Abergavenny Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Abergavenny Nursery
Registered places	75
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	10 June 2024
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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.

<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children are confident, happy and enjoy their time at Abergavenny nursery. They make choices and decisions about what they do and how they spend their time at the setting. Children form positive relationships with their friends and staff. They show enthusiasm and engage in a variety of purposeful play-based activities.

Staff are professional and motivated. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy and implement the setting's policies and procedures effectively. Staff support children's learning and development well, offering a purposeful range of activities led by children's interests and developmental needs.

The environment is very welcoming and well organised so that children can access resources independently. Children freely choose what they want to play with from an outstanding selection of resources and toys. Staff regularly take children to visit interesting places in the local environment, providing children with an opportunity to learn about the world around them.

Leaders at the nursery are enthusiastic and dedicated, offering a high standard of care to children. They are well organised and have effective systems in place for evaluating and improving their setting. Leaders have developed positive relationships with parents / carers and external agencies and work closely with them to provide effective care and support to all children in their care.

Well-being

Good

Children have lots of choices and opportunities to make decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They move around the environment freely choosing where and what they want to play with. We saw younger babies crawl to different parts of the room to access toys they wish to play with. One child played at the wooden kitchen area while another child enjoyed placing a doll in a pushchair and pushing it around the room. Children confidently communicate their thoughts and ideas, as they know they are listened to and all attempts at communication are valued. We saw younger children indicate they would like the box of musical instruments, to which staff responded promptly.

Children are happy, settled and most cope well with separation from their parents. They have good bonds of affection with staff who are kind and caring. For example, younger children seek comfort and affection from staff by sitting on their lap, smiling and laughing while they cuddle. Most children are familiar with the daily routines, which helps them feel settled and at ease in their surroundings. We saw younger children crawl over to the snack area once they knew it was nearly time to eat, whilst older children understood they needed to wash their hands before they had lunch.

Children behave and interact well for their ages and stages of development. They happily play alone or alongside their friends as they learn to share and work together. We saw older children sit next to each other and look at the pictures in a book, chatting to each other about the pictures. Other children enjoyed running after the bubbles in the garden, popping them and laughing. With support, children are learning to respect each other and the resources, using them appropriately and helping to tidy them away when asked.

Children are interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a range of interesting opportunities and have the freedom to safely explore the indoor and outdoor environment. Children are self-motivated to initiate their own play and most sustain their play for periods in line with their age and stage of development. Older children show perseverance using rolling pins and other utensils when playing with playdough. While younger babies concentrate to move the beads on a sensory toy.

Children have good opportunities to develop their independence. They follow their own interests for extended periods of time which allows them to consolidate skills and make decisions. With support, children are learning to do things for themselves, such as putting their own coats and wellies on and helping to tidy up. Those who are able, independently use the facilities, such as toilets and handwashing.

Care and Development

Good

Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and implement policies and procedures effectively. They demonstrate a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and the action they need to take should they have a concern about a child. Staff conduct regular fire drill practices with children to ensure they know how to leave the building safely in the event of an emergency. Whilst staff encourage children to develop their independence when using the stairs at the nursery, there were occasions during the inspection when staff were not strategically placed to ensure full supervision of the children. Staff have a good understanding of children's health needs including allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. Staff provide nutritious snacks and meals and offer milk or water. They record accidents and incidents appropriately. Most information for recording the administration of prescribed medication is clearly recorded. Staff maintain a hygienic environment, washing tables and sweeping floors throughout the day.

Staff are patient, caring and kind when interacting with children. They deal with any inappropriate behaviour quickly and calmly to avoid it escalating. For example, when a child gently pushed another child, a staff member quickly intervened, clearly told them to stop and distracted them by blowing bubbles. Staff use praise appropriately to celebrate children's achievements, helping them to feel a sense of pride in what they are doing. They know the children well which helps them to provide reassurance and comfort to those who need it. We heard a member of staff comment on a child's new boots "*wow, are they new wellies? I love those!*" to which the child smiled. Staff speak respectfully to each other and are good role models for children.

Staff promote children's play and learning by following their interests and preferences. They play alongside children and look for opportunities to extend their learning. Staff pose meaningful questions to children when playing together. For example, whilst exploring different materials with a magnet, a member of staff asks a child to guess what types of things around the room might be magnetic and why that might be. Staff have embraced the Curriculum for Wales in their new planning. They have large 'floor books' in each room which capture children's voice and outlines areas the children find interesting. This ensures children are at the heart of the planning process. We heard staff use Welsh language during our inspection, including counting and saying the colours in Welsh.

Environment

Excellent

Leaders have systems in place to ensure the environment is suitably safe, secure, and well maintained. The premises are warm, welcoming and very well maintained. Staff ensure only authorised entry to the setting and maintain a log for any visitors attending. Staff complete effective and accurate risk assessments which are regularly reviewed. In addition, staff complete comprehensive daily safety checks of the indoor and outdoor environments to identify and eliminate any risks to children's safety. Staff ensure toilets are clean and easy for children to use independently or with supervision if required. They carry out nappy changing in line with their policy, respecting the privacy of children and promoting infection control. Leaders ensure accurate times for when staff and children attend the setting are recorded. Safety certificates are up to date including gas boiler service, electrical testing, and fire safety checks.

Leaders ensure the environment is exceptionally welcoming and extremely well-maintained. The décor is natural with walls painted in soft, neutral colours which creates a calm, homely atmosphere. Rooms are spacious and well-lit with children's work attractively displayed alongside photos of the children. This creates a sense of belonging and encourages children to feel proud. The outdoor area is extensively resourced, highly engaging, and continually growing and developing, to provide the best outcomes for children. Physical skills are enhanced as toddlers climb, dig and explore the outdoor resources. Imagination is developed in the mud kitchen, water play and painting areas, allowing children to take their play in whichever direction they wish. Playrooms have a quiet space for children to relax and enjoy as well as calming sleep areas for younger children. Staff provide children with superb opportunities to explore the local environment. Parents particularly praised how the nursery regularly explores the local area and take children to "*visit the castle, post office and parks*" encouraging a growing understanding of their local community and the world around them.

Leaders ensure all children can easily access an extensive variety, of excellent quality toys and equipment, both indoors and outside. The playrooms provide exceptional learning opportunities and are creatively set out, with leaders showing a developing commitment to the curiosity approach. Leaders provide high-quality furniture to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs, craft trays, low level toy storage units and coat pegs for children's belongings. The nursery provides developmentally appropriate resources both indoors and outdoors. These contain a mix of natural and manmade materials with many attractive wooden resources. Resources are clean and in excellent condition.

Leadership and Management

Good

Leaders are enthusiastic and motivated to provide a high-quality service. They are knowledgeable about their regulatory responsibilities and operate above the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare. Leaders of the setting play an active role in the day to day running and have a good understanding of the staff, children and the care they provide. The statement of purpose contains the information needed for parents to make an informed decision if it is the right care for their child. Policies and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect current practice.

Leaders of the setting work hard to provide a quality care provision to children, their families, and the community. The staff team are enthusiastic, motivated and enjoy their work. Leaders maintain an organised environment and documents are easily accessed and in good order. They spend time analysing accidents and incidents to identify any emerging patterns or trends. Leaders monitor the quality of the service and plan for improvements effectively. They regularly seek feedback from parents, children, staff, and outside agencies and identify some areas for development.

Leaders ensure that paperwork and staff files are well organised, and evidence all relevant checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Leaders have a clear system in place to ensure that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are up to date. They hold one to one supervisions with staff which enable them to identify their strengths and areas for development. Leaders mostly deploy staff effectively, however during the inspection we observed there were times of transition, during the day when required staff ratios were not met. Once made aware of this, leaders acted swiftly to ensure correct staff to child ratios were adhered to during the final part of the inspection. Staff told us they felt supported by leaders and meet regularly to discuss any issues which may arise. Children's records contain all required information.

Leaders have developed meaningful and positive relationships with parents and carers. They also make effective use of the support and expertise available to them from external agencies such as flying start. There are good systems in place to keep parents well informed about their child's time at the setting. Parents have said staff are "*always welcoming and attentive*". They commented that the nursery has a "*friendly, kind and fun environment*" where their children are "*given a great deal of individual care and attention*".

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.

Area(s) for Improvement		
Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this	N/A

	inspection	
29	The provider must ensure a staff disciplinary policy is in place.	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 15 - Staffing ratios	Monitor transition times to ensure required adult to child ratios are met.

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)
Strengthen procedure for children using the stairs to ensure staff supervise effectively.
Strengthen medication record to clearly outline doses given and signatures obtained.

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.

Was this report helpful?

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- [Inspection report survey](#)

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our [Feedback surveys page](#).

Date Published 12/03/2025