Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Little Sprouts Day Nursery

Little Sprouts Day Nursery, 119 London Road, Neath, SA11 1LF

07872327529

The inspection visit took place on 13/05/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Goal Enterprise (Neath) Ltd
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	56
Main language(s):	English
Flying Start service:	Yes
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider makes an effort to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture or is working towards a bilingual service.

Ratings:

Well-being	Adequate
Care & Development	Poor
Environment	Adequate
Leadership & Management	Poor

Summary:

Children have some opportunities to make choices and decisions. They are mostly happy and cope well at the setting. Overall, children express themselves suitably, engage in activities and interact well. Most children enjoy their play and learning. They are developing their independence skills, although there are missed opportunities for children to do more for themselves.

Staff inconsistently promote the safety and well-being of children. Many staff have a good understanding of how to support children. They interact positively with children, demonstrating kindness, and patience. However, there are variations in promoting positive behaviour and supporting children effectively at certain points of the day.

Leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure, and generally well maintained. They tell us of improvements which have been made and are on-going at the setting. The environment is welcoming and spacious, with some quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources.

Leadership needs improvement. They have taken prompt action to address issues raised as part of the inspection, implementing changes promptly. However, they need to be able to act independently of Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to ensure compliance is embedded and sustained at the setting. We have issued two priority action notices, highlighted two areas for improvements and made numerous recommendations as part of this inspection.

Findings:

Well-being — Adequate

Children have some opportunities to make choices and decisions. For example, choosing where they play and follow their own interests. Their voice is inconsistent at the setting. In some rooms children are offered a choice of fruit for snack, in other rooms there is one snack option. Children ask for help and are listened to at times. For example, children confidently said *"I want to sit here too"* when reading a story with a staff member. Although requests to use the bathroom is sometimes overlooked and not acted upon quick enough. Children engage positively with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) involving us in their play.

Children are mostly happy and cope well with separation from their parents or carers. Children have a sense of belonging. They know the routine well and explore the environment successfully. Most children are happy and engaged in their play. For example, rolling balls and developing turn taking with peers and staff. Children are supported by staff, who know them well. For example, asking children *"Have you had a tough day? I'm here if you need me."* Valuing children's feelings and promoting secure interactions.

Children have mostly positive relationships with each other and staff. For example, children respond thoughtfully to situations such as a pot of bubbles spilling, discussing the incident and showing care and concern for each other. They sit together at mealtimes and most listen to instructions. Children express themselves well. For example, babies attempt to communicate through babbling. Children engage in activities and interact well together in group time sessions, which are led by staff members. Older children proudly share their 'prize' for positive behaviour and show the completed ticks on their chart.

Most children enjoy their play and learning, although experiences vary within rooms. We saw children read books, sing songs and count bilingually. Children explore differences when mark making with chalks, learning colours and numbers. Older children competently use pencils to draw pictures, proudly sharing their work with one another and staff. Some children's interests are not as well sustained, with less purposeful engagement in play and learning, leading to disagreements.

Children are developing their independence skills suitably, although there are inconsistencies. For example, a few children clear their plates after snack. However, at mealtimes there are missed opportunities for children to take a more active role. They wash their hands independently, or with support if needed. Children feed themselves competently, requesting knives at mealtimes and support when cutting up food. In some rooms children are learning to take responsibility for their belongings and support staff with tidying up.

Care & Development — Poor

Staff inconsistently promote the safety and well-being of children. They do not have a suitable understanding of their role in protecting children and are not able to adequately answer safeguarding scenarios. The person in charge and nearly all other staff members do not hold current or appropriate safeguarding training for their roles. This is placing people's health and well-being at risk, and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue. Following our inspection visit, many staff have completed basic safeguarding training. Leaders informed us advance safeguarding training has been booked for leaders and relevant training has been booked for all other staff to complete shortly. Many staff have completed paediatric first aid, and a small number have undertaken food hygiene training. The setting offers flexible meal options, with under three's being provided with a home cooked lunch, whilst older children have a packed lunch from home. Breakfast and mid-morning snacks differ. Staff implement adequate systems to meet allergy and dietary needs. Staff mostly follow policies and procedures. Although, there are inconsistencies in relation to effective hygiene procedures. Bedding and sleep practices are not always in line with best practice. Following our inspection visit, we have been informed sleep practices have been developed.

Many staff understand the behaviour management policy and implement encouraging strategies. They mostly use positive reinforcement, reassuring children through praise. We heard staff say, *"Good job- da iawn" and "well done boys and girls".* They reassure children to use *"kind hands"* and remind them not to throw toys. However, few staff do not always effectively implement current behaviour management strategies, in line with the setting's policy. Staff know the children well. We saw staff talking with them about recent events and activities they have been involved in at the weekend. Many staff have a good understanding of how to support children. They interact positively, demonstrating kindness, and patience. For example, reading together in the home corner and developing language and learning of numbers and colours. Many staff appropriately support children when they lead their play. For example, children choose to have a dance competition, staff request if they would like musical statues or musical bumps. However, whilst staff attend to housekeeping duties, following meals and during transition times, some children become unsettled, and care is inconsistent.

Staff provide some play and learning opportunities. In the main, children lead their own play and experiences throughout the day, with some adult-led group times. They implement aspects of the Curriculum for Wales. Leaders tell us they plan in the moment, although there is little evidence of how this currently reflects children's individual interests or next steps. Observations are complete. Staff recognise children's achievements, such as when a child says something for the first time. Staff identify if children have emerging needs, introducing systems to support them, signposting parents, and accessing additional help, if needed. A small number of staff promote incidental Welsh, introducing basic words and phrases into conversations and as part of the daily routine.

Environment — Adequate

Leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure, and well maintained. Leaders inform us a reception area has been created to provide a secure space for parents to drop off and collect children, without accessing the nursery. They tell us of additional improvements, including the installation of new windows, kitchen and security systems. There are practices in place to ensure the entrance door and main playroom door remains secure and all visitors sign in and out via an electronic system. An interactive screen provides parents with information, updates, as well as staff photographs and roles at the setting. There are a range of risk assessments, which undergo regular review. Fire extinguishers and CCTV are available throughout the setting. Fire drills are complete. However, they have not been undertaken at regular intervals recently. Appropriate electrical, fire extinguisher and boiler safety checks remain current.

Leaders ensure there is an appropriate range of opportunities for children. The environment is welcoming and spacious. With individual rooms for the varying ages and developmental needs of children, as well as a separate Flying Start provision, dining areas and soft playroom. There are suitable toilet facilities and an appropriate nappy changing area. Some of the children's artwork is displayed. The outdoor play space was under development during the inspection, with a new soft surface area being completed. Therefore, we did not observe the outside provision.

Leaders provide some quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources. Most of the equipment is available to children, so they can choose their interests independently. Some of the resources reflect loose parts and everyday objects. They provide resources for all ages and stages of development, which contribute to the children's all-round development. For example, through role play, construction play, sensory and creative activities. However, improved and more varied resources would develop children's interest. There are minimal resources and learning opportunities to promote children's curiosity about wider society, equality and cultural awareness.

Leadership & Management — Poor

Leadership is inconsistent and improvement is required to comply with the regulations and meet the national minimum standards suitably. Overall, leaders engage positively with CIW and have acted promptly when we have highlighted concerns as part of this inspection. They generally keep us up to date with any changes at the setting. Following our inspection visit an up-to-date staff training matrix has been provided. Leaders have systems in place to document regulatory records such as registers for children, staff and visitors. However, these do not always accurately reflect which staff are caring for the children. Leaders do not ensure accident and incident records are consistently completed and signed by parents. Following our inspection, an incident record has now been developed. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders ensure accurate contracts and a range of consent forms are in place for children attending the setting. Following our inspection, consent forms now include the use of CCTV. They undertake annual reviews of policies and documents. Leaders have appropriate public liability insurances and are registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

Leaders have effective self-evaluation systems in place, recently completing the Self-Assessment of Service (SASS). They seek the views of parents, staff and others which is provided within the thorough report. It highlights areas, including elements which have worked well, alongside areas which did not go so well and some plans for the year ahead. For example, the development and improvement of the outside area, which has been acted upon.

Leaders inconsistently follow appropriate recruitment processes. Suitability checks, included within staff files are incomplete. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. All staff have current and up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. Leaders confirm they have systems in place to review the update system annually. Staff are provided with a thorough induction booklet, including information on the business and setting. However, staff do not receive consistent supervisions and appraisals. Many staff lack appropriate support and do not have sufficient opportunities to undertake mandatory training and continual professional development. This is placing people's health and well-being at risk, and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue. Leaders inform us team meetings take place, and an open-door policy is promoted with all staff. Staff feedback received as part of the inspection was conflicting, highlighting inconsistencies with practice, as well as positive elements.

Leaders tell us they have effective partnerships in place. Explaining the links they have with outside professionals, alongside local schools, the Family Information Service and Flying Start. Parents are kept up to date through verbal discussions and the use of an online application. As part of the inspection process, we gained feedback from parents and carers which was mostly positive and very complimentary of the service provided, including comments such as, *"The setting is very organised, the staff are all very professional." "Hand overs with the girls is great, always updates us*

of any issues throughout the day. I'm really pleased to see the strict front door/security policy." "The nursery is always spotless, well-organised, and creates such a safe and welcoming environment for the children."

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.

The table(s) below show the area(s) for priority action and/or those for improvement we have identified.

Summary of Areas for Improvement	Date identified
Children are potentially at risk because the responsible individual does not ensure all suitability checks are complete prior to employment.	13/05/26
Children are at potential risk as the responsible individual does not ensure that all records are accurately maintained.	13/05/26

Summary of areas for Priority Action	Date identified
Outcomes for children are poor because not all staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding procedures or have undertaken relevant training.	13/05/26
Outcomes for children are poor as staff are not in receipt of regular supervision, appraisals and have not undertaken mandatory training to provide them with suitable knowledge for their role.	13/05/26

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 10 - Healthcare	Consistently implement effective hygiene practices
Standard 9 - Behaviour	Consistently implement positive behaviour management strategies
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Prioritise opportunities for play, supporting children's interests effectively linking to observations, planning and next steps
Standard 24 - Safety	Undertake regular fire drills
Standard 22 - Environment	Develop the environment and resources to better meet the needs of the children
Standard 21 - Notifications of significant events	Keep CIW up to date with all significant events at the setting.

Best Practice

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.

Recommendation(s)
Promote children’s independence consistently

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2026.
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.