Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Buds to Blossoms Day Nursery

Buds To Blossoms Day Nursery
Park Place Beaufort
Ebbw Vale
NP23 5JX



Date Inspection Completed

23/10/2024

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About Buds to Blossoms Day Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	BUDS TO BLOSSOMS DAY NURSERIES LIMITED
Registered places	54
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection since registration.
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	**Excellent**

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

Summary

Children are extremely happy, relaxed and enjoy their time at the nursery. They have exceptional opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. Children develop positive, healthy relationships with their friends and staff. They have outstanding opportunities which encourage their curiosity, extend their learning and enable them to follow their own interests.

Staff are excellent at keeping children safe and healthy. Staff follow and promote strong hygiene practices. They have an extensive range of policies, procedures and documentation in place which effectively support them when undertaking their roles. Staff are kind, patient, caring and offer reassurance to children when needed. They know the children in their care very well.

The environment is safe, clean and secure. Leaders ensure there are beneficial systems in place to maintain a safe environment. There is an extensive range of equipment and resources both indoors and outdoors to encourage children to play and learn. The environment provides children with good opportunities to make independent choices in their play and develop their self-help skills.

Leadership and management of the setting is excellent. Leaders have a clear vision for the nursery and are committed to continually improve the quality of the nursery. There is an extensive range of policies and procedures to support the running of the service. Parents we spoke to were highly complementary of the service.

Well-being — Excellent

Children have exceptional opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. Babies and toddlers can freely move around their dedicated playrooms and older children move easily between the indoor and outdoor play environments. Children have access to an extensive range of toys, resources and exciting activities. Children demonstrate that they feel empowered to make choices in their play. They choose where and what they want to play with. For example, a toddler confidently uses the car wheels to make marks with the paint, knowing this experimental play is encouraged by staff. Children express themselves confidently, as they know their wants and needs will be considered and respected. For example, toddlers choose which songs they want to sing. Older children lead their play, when assertively telling staff where they will all go when their rocket blasts off during a shared imaginative role play game.

Nearly all children are extremely happy and settled at the nursery. Children who are a little unsettled are quickly reassured by staff and are soon playing happily with their friends. Children feel valued and have a strong sense of belonging. They clearly enjoy being in the company of each other, forming warm and affectionate friendships and developing secure relationships with staff. Children chat away to staff and their friends while they engage in activities and happily have cuddles with their care givers. Children receive lots of encouragement and praise from staff for their efforts, giving them the confidence to play and learn.
Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. They benefit from an outstanding range of play opportunities enabling them to develop, learn and use their imagination. For example, babies investigate the flesh and seeds of a pumpkin along with exploring paint with their hands. This provides them with opportunities to explore and enhance their sensory and social play experiences. Children fully immerse themselves in their play, they experience a sense of excitement and empowerment to explore their interests freely. They embrace the invitations to play which are suitable for their age and stage of development. We saw children playing outdoors in the mud kitchen area, filling and emptying various coloured water from large teapots. They work together to pour all the water out and fill the pot back up again, this went on for quite some time, much to their delight.

Children are beginning to develop a wide range of skills as they play and engage in routines. They have many opportunities to become independent, enabling them to do things for themselves. Older children access the bathroom and are actively encouraged to independently undress and dress themselves, when changing out of their school clothes. At mealtimes children competently and confidently pour their own drinks, scrape any uneaten food off their own plates and place them in the washing bowl. This promotes children's self-help skills and builds their self-esteem.

Care and Development — Excellent

Staff have an excellent understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. The nursery has an extensive range of policies, procedures and documentation in place which staff consistently follow when undertaking their roles. There is a comprehensive safeguarding policy and procedure in place. Staff confidently told us what they would do if they dealt with a safeguarding concern, including whistleblowing procedures to be followed. This demonstrates a firm understanding of their responsibilities and commitment to take forward any concerns. Staff follow and promote strong hygiene practices. For example, babies and toddlers are supported to clean their hands, before eating and following messy activities, instilling good hygiene practices from an early age. Staff are confident when recording, maintaining, and reviewing a range of records including, accident, incident and medication logs. Staff purposefully evaluate these records to identify any trends and to monitor where and how these are happening throughout the nursery.

The nursery offers a variety of healthy and well-balanced meals and snacks which are freshly prepared. There are robust procedures in place for dealing with children with allergies, intolerances, and dietary preferences. Staff implement these procedures consistently. 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 access to the outdoor play environment daily.

Staff interact extremely well with children. They act as good role models, speaking to each other and children respectfully while building positive relationships with them. We saw staff inviting children to have their nappy changed. Staff are warm, kind, patient and offer reassurance to children when needed. They use a positive approach to guide children towards the behaviour expected. Staff frequently praise and reinforce positive behaviour, in line with the behaviour management policy. For example, a staff member quickly responded, when two children began squabbling. One child become a little upset as they were struggling to find room on the seat. The staff member skilfully guided the children as to how they could share the seat together. Both children responded positively to the suggestion and continued to play happily together. They were both praised for working together.

Staff have excellent skills and knowledge to identify children's individual needs and plan appropriate play and learning opportunities which lead on from children's interests. We saw examples which identified children's interest for torches and staff told us how they added additional resources and equipment to further enhance their learning. Therefore, building on the children's previous play experiences. Staff support children with additional learning needs well. They seek beneficial advice and guidance from professionals and implement and review individual targets regularly to ensure that children's needs are met.

Environment	**Good**

Leaders ensure the setting is safe and secure. There are effective practices in place to accurately record visitors, staff and children's time of arrival and departure. Leaders have beneficial measures in place to maintain the safety of the environment, including carrying out regular fire drills, thus ensuring staff and children know what to do in the event of a fire. Staff implement appropriate daily cleaning processes. However, leaders do not ensure staff have comprehensive cleaning procedures to follow for deep cleaning tasks. There is a suitable range of risk assessments in place to maintain a safe environment. However, these do not always consider all elements of the nursery. Staff complete daily checks of the premises to identify and where possible eliminate any risks to children's safety.

The environment offers good facilities to care for children. All rooms are equipped with high quality and suitably sized furniture for the varying ages of children. The layout of the playrooms supports children to move around freely. Older children have independent access to the bathroom. Toddlers do not have access to running water in their playroom to be able to facilitate independent hand washing. Nappy changing facilities are accessible to all playrooms which are well equipped. Children eat their meals and snacks in their individual rooms, minimising the movement across areas, extending their time to play. Low-level highchairs assist babies to sit together, enabling them to fully experience the social benefits of mealtimes. Older children can rest during the day within their playrooms. Babies and toddlers use cots, low-level sleep mats and individual bed linen is provided. Staff closely monitor sleeping babies and children.

Leaders provide an extensive range of open-ended authentic resources and toys which are of good quality. Real-life, natural, re-purposed and recycled items are used to enhance all areas of the environment and support children of all ages, enhancing their play experiences. For example, dressing up clothes, include items such as hats and bags. Real life experiences are mirrored by using resources such as real microwaves, toasters and hairdryers in the role play areas. The use of loose parts such as various shells, flowers and fir cones are displayed on the clay table. This enables children to decorate their creations, promoting creativity and curiosity. Resources are organised and displayed attractively on low level shelving units, so they are easily accessible and extremely inviting to children.

The outdoor play space is accessible directly from the older children's playroom and is of good size. The leaders told us how they are planning to create a partitioned area, specifically for babies, enabling them to move freely and safely in the space. The space offers a range of experiences. For example, an extensive mud kitchen area along with water trays, supports creativity and imaginative play. A building area stocked with items such as crates, cones and tyres facilitate children's construction play. This promotes opportunities for children to problem solve and foster a spirit of innovation when creating large structures outdoors.

Leadership and Management — Excellent

Leadership and management of the nursery is excellent. The Responsible Individual supports the Person in Charge very well. They have a clear vision for the future of the service. They understand current best practice and have a strong commitment to continually improve the quality of the nursery, promoting good outcomes for staff, children and their families. A comprehensive statement of purpose enables parents to make an informed choice if the nursery suits their needs. Extensive policies, procedures, and documentation to support the smooth running of the nursery are embedded in practice. Leaders understand the importance of having a consistent team of well-trained and confident staff. Mandatory training is up to date such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. Staff also have opportunities to enhance their skills by attending many additional training courses. For example, speech and language, promoting mental well-being and additional learning needs. This embeds a culture of continuous improvement. Leaders ensure all staff receive beneficial supervisions and annual appraisals. These support opportunities for all staff to reflect on their practice regularly, share their learning and be active participants when identifying areas to further develop their knowledge. Leaders also place an importance on nurturing the staff's own emotional well-being. Staff told us they feel very well supported in their roles. They feel proud to work at the nursery.

Leaders understand their responsibilities to ensure staff are recruited safely, have the necessary qualifications and experience required to care for the children. Nearly all staff are qualified and experienced, ensuring children are well cared for at all times. Staff who do not hold the required training are well supported while working towards their qualification. New staff undertake a probation period which includes a robust induction process, which places an emphasis on staff being confident and competent in their roles especially regarding safeguarding matters. For example, staff complete safeguarding questionnaires and have supporting action plans in place to ensure their individual training needs are suitably planned for. There is a commitment to holding regular team meetings where key information is shared with staff such as updates regarding health and safety and safeguarding matters.

Staff have strong relationships with parents. They keep them well informed and work together to plan for each child's individual needs, promoting good outcomes for children. Parents we spoke to were highly complementary about the service. They told us that they feel reassured and relaxed when leaving their children at the nursery, knowing they will have a great time and be well supported.

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	

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 24 - Safety	Ensure risk assessments fully consider all elements of the nursery.
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure comprehensive cleaning procedures are followed for deep cleaning tasks.

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)
Consider how younger children could access running water to promote their independence when washing their hands.

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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