



Inspection Report

Building Blocks Nursery

**Royal Glamorgan Hospital
Ansari Court
Llantrisant
Pontyclun
CF72 8XR**



Date Inspection Completed

19/07/2021

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About Building Blocks Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Valedown Limited
Registered places	43
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	01 June 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language

Summary

Children settle well and feel secure at the nursery. They enjoy meeting and playing with other children and are developing warm bonds with their peers. They gain pleasure from the range of play and learning opportunities available, and have positive attachments with staff who care for them.

Staff provide children with a suitable selection of age appropriate play activities. They are aware of their responsibilities to keep children safe and promote their well-being, and have an understanding of the services' policies and procedures. They manage children's behaviour in a positive way, fostering a calm and relaxed atmosphere where children feel comfortable and confident.

The environment is welcoming and attractive. There is access to the outdoor area from all playrooms with internal and outside spaces maintained to a good standard. There are effective risk assessment records and sound administration of health and safety checks to keep children safe.

Leadership of the service is effective. People who run the nursery implement good record keeping systems and staff are suitably qualified. Parents are complimentary about the service and value the support and care given to their children by the staff team.

Well-being

Children make decisions about what they want to do and staff listen to them. They can choose how they like to spend their time at the nursery. Children join in group activities if they choose to, but are equally happy playing independently. They explore the environment with confidence, initiate conversations with staff and enjoy staff involvement in play activities. Children express their opinions freely and all attempts at communication is valued. We saw babies use non-verbal communication, which staff noticed and responded to in a positive way. Children have opportunities to talk about and discuss what they like to do at the nursery, and are able to follow their interests.

Children cope well with separation from their parents. Babies are very settled and comfortable at the service, developing positive attachments with staff who care for them. They happily approach staff for cuddles and reassurance and staff respond quickly to their needs. Children have a sense of belonging and artwork is display, giving them pride and ownership of the environment. Older children are beginning to form friendships in line with their age and stage of development; they cope well with the routines of the nursery, and are happy to take turns and share. Children listen to what their peers have to say and show consideration towards others when playing and when sitting at circle time. Younger children happily play alongside each other, and enjoy observing what others are doing.

Children across all age groups enjoy being independent and doing things for themselves. Babies enjoy crawling, pulling themselves up to a standing position, picking up toys and exploring their playroom. Older children equally value the opportunity to be independent in preparation for formal education, and enjoy selecting toys and resources such as books without assistance and making decisions about their play.

Children are happy and enjoy the time they spend at the service. They gain pleasure from the play opportunities they have access to, and show excitement when playing with other children. Older children value the chance to play outdoors, as well as inside. They enjoy pretend play with others, where they can use their imagination. For example, we saw children pretending to run an ice cream stall. Equally, they enjoy quieter activities, such as story-telling and very much enjoy contributing and answering questions. Younger children show curiosity when playing with interactive toys and enjoyment in exploring.

Care and Development

Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. They understand the need to implement safe practice and follow procedures in relation to Covid-19, leading to increased vigilance in relation to infection control procedures at the service. They understand that they have a responsibility to report and record any concerns they have about a child's welfare and have knowledge of the services' safeguarding policy and procedures. They undertake training in relation to safeguarding and first aid, so have up to date knowledge of best practice in these areas to ensure appropriate action is taken. They maintain appropriate records and understand the need to share information with parents and other agencies when necessary.

Staff manage children's behaviour in a positive way. They recognise the importance of consistency in practice and of being good role models for children in their care. They treat each other and children with respect and use praise and encouragement to give children a sense of pride in their accomplishments. This in turn, fosters a relaxed and informal atmosphere at the nursery, where children feel comfortable playing and learning. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy setting out strategies for staff to follow, although presently staff do not have up to date behaviour management training.

Staff understand the importance of play and plan for a good selection of age appropriate play and learning opportunities for all children. They ensure that children have regular opportunities to play outdoors and be active. There is a good balance between child - selected play and adult led activities, with the emphasis on children choosing their activities with support from staff if required. The service operates a keyworker system to support children. Staff are responsible for recording and monitoring the progress of their key children in order to identify their progress and signpost areas for development. When they engage with children, staff show interest in what they have to say and they respond warmly to children's questions. They are happy to join in play with children and during storytelling activities they are enthusiastic, valuing and encouraging children's participation. Staff supervise children well during indoor and outside play and work effectively together.

Environment

The environment is safe, secure and welcoming, providing spacious accommodation for children all on one level. Staff complete daily safety checks of the premises to identify and where possible eliminate any risk to children's safety. Managers keep a record of all visitors to the nursery, although during Covid-19, non-essential visitors do not enter the building. Records show that all regular and routine maintenance checks for the premises are in place. There is a secure door entry system and secure outdoor fencing.

Children are cared for in a clean environment, with bright attractive rooms all of which have access to outdoor space, making it easy for children to have free flow from the inside to outside play areas. There is a welcoming foyer area, which displays information about the service. Internal rooms are well decorated, and considered from a child's perspective, with zoned areas for different play activities. The baby room is well appointed, with a dedicated sleep room so babies can have undisturbed rest, and a small food preparation area for staff to prepare milk feeds without having to leave the playroom. All playrooms offer sufficient floor space so children can move freely and explore their environment. Most resources are easily accessible to children, giving them a good degree of independence when playing. Outdoor areas are of a good standard and offer children space to be physically active.

There is suitable furniture, equipment and toys for children of all ages. Younger children have access to a good selection of small interactive toys and books and older children have access to small toys, plus cultural resources and craft materials. There is some larger outdoor play equipment available for children when playing outdoors. Furniture is of a suitable standard and appropriate for the age range of children who currently attend the service.

Leadership and Management

The leadership of the service is effective. There is a statement of purpose in place, which provides an accurate picture of what the service offers. This enables perspective parents to make a considered decision about the nursery's suitability for their child. Policies and procedures are well-organised and reviewed regularly to ensure they are appropriate and administrative procedures are effective in relation to other documents.

People who run the nursery plan appropriately for improvements. There is a system in place to monitor the quality of care and consultation with staff, parents and children forms part of the quality assurance process. Questionnaires are circulated and responses from these feed into the annual review of quality of care report. There has been recent investment in the nursery with decoration of internal spaces and new flooring.

People who run the service have appropriate systems to support the management of staff and resources. There are arrangements for staff absences to minimise disruption to children and there are enough qualified and experienced staff to make sure children received the care they need. Staff have opportunities to discuss issues via small team meetings, although full nursery meetings are less frequent, so there is limited opportunity for the whole staff team to come together to discuss issues and share ideas. There is a system to record staff arrival at the nursery, although recording of staff deployment during the day and their time of departure from the nursery is less consistent. In general, staff feel supported and have opportunities to discuss their practice and development during formal one to one supervision meetings and appraisals.

Partnerships with parents are good. The service maintains communication with parents and hope to resume formal meetings with parents when it is safe to do so. Parents we spoke to are happy with the care provided and the overall quality of the service. They very much appreciate the efforts made by staff to maintain a good service during the pandemic and feel that their child receives good quality care from attentive and supportive staff. They told us that there is very good teaching, lots of outdoor play opportunities for children and safe procedures and practice to support their child's wellbeing and welfare.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Provide opportunities for staff to complete behaviour management training.

R2. Provide further opportunities for full team meetings.

R3. Develop a clearer system for recording when staff are on their breaks and their times of departure from the service.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

The provider	Regulation 24 (2) (b)
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Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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