



Inspection Report

Puddleducks Playgroup

**Llantarnam Community Primary School
Llantarnam Road
Llantarnam
Cwmbran
NP44 3XB**



Date Inspection Completed

17/03/2022

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About Puddleducks Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Joanna Wharton
Registered places	36
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 May 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

Summary

Puddleducks Playgroup is child centred with a strong emphasis upon children directing their own play and learning. Children are happy and comfortable in their surroundings and develop trusting relationships with staff. They learn many social and independence skills that will ease their transition into a school setting.

Staff are nurturing, well qualified and take their responsibilities seriously. They are very attentive to the children. They understand and implement most policies and procedures to keep children safe and healthy but need greater confidence around some aspects of child protection procedures.

The playgroup operates from a new building on the site of Llantarnam Community Primary School. The local authority maintains the building to a high standard. The registered person (RP) and her staff ensure it is safe and stimulating for the children. It is equipped with a wide range of good resources and equipment that ensures play and learning is fun and engaging for the children.

The registered person has good oversight of the service. Systems are in place to ensure that the policies, procedures and monitoring of the service enable it to operate smoothly. The RP supports staff well and is able to build good links with outside professionals and parents to meet the needs of children attending.

Well-being

Children have a strong voice at the service. All of their communication is valued and respected and they have a strong say in how the playgroup develops. For example, they complete child friendly evaluation forms to gain children's feedback about activities and resources. They direct their own play, in line with their ideas or interests and explore, play and choose their toys freely.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed. They are comfortable and feel secure because staff help them to understand the routines and structure of the day. Children seek out staff to interact with, and are confident and eager to engage with others. The settling in procedures help young children separate from parents and quickly become reassured and settle to their play.

Children are developing an awareness of the world around them. Younger children are beginning to follow simple instructions whilst older children are able to sit and concentrate on tasks that interest them. Children practice their social skills and develop relationships, playing co-operatively and kindly with their friends. We saw lots of respect and thoughtfulness between children.

All children really enjoy the opportunities they have to play and explore in their own time. Children concentrate well, painting pictures that they then hang up to dry. For example, one child proudly displayed their painting of a St. Patrick's pot of gold along with other children's pictures of shamrock. They concentrate well, for example, when listening to stories or responding to questions during circle time. They laugh and giggle with delight when playing with the parachute outside.

Children do as much for themselves as possible in line with their stage of development. Their play opportunities help develop their confidence and this in turn supports them to learn new skills. For example, they share out plates at lunchtime, and pour their own milk or water from a jug. They become independent in their toileting and hygiene practices. Children confidently store away their belongings, hanging their coats up after playing outside. These skills help them prepare for the transition into a school setting and build their confidence in social situations.

Care and Development

Staff have a good understanding of the setting's policies and procedures, which they follow in order to keep children safe and healthy. They understand their responsibilities in reporting any child protection concerns and have suitable guidance to support this, but need greater confidence in implementing some aspects of the procedures. Practitioners follow Welsh Government's guidance about keeping children safe during the COVID-19 pandemic effectively. Accident, incident and medication records are completed and shared with parents and the registered person (RP) monitors these to detect any emerging trends that may need addressing. Staff promote healthy lifestyles by ensuring that children have access to nutritious snacks and milk or water to drink. They act as good role models, and gently prompt and support children to wash or sanitise their hands when necessary. They support children's physical development well, by providing many opportunities to play outdoors. They have up-to-date first aid training and the knowledge to deal with minor injuries.

Staff manage children's behaviour very well, using a kind and nurturing approach in their interactions. They are consistent in giving children lots of praise and acknowledging their efforts, for example, by rewarding stickers for good effort. They encourage children to be kind and inclusive during play. For example, reminding children to use 'kind hands' during play. Children respond well to this, and are able to share resources and play happily together. Staff support and anticipate children's emotional needs well. For example, they introduce children to unfamiliar adults visiting the setting.

Staff support children's development and create a fun and stimulating environment to support children's play and learning. They set up areas so that children are curious and have choice in how they wish to play. They know the children very well and identify children's individual needs and interests. They plan, record and evaluate children's play experiences successfully. They undertake initial assessments for younger children not yet attending nursery school, and track their individual progress. They celebrate multi-cultural festivals and significant dates, such as 'International Women's Day' to teach respect and inclusion and to broaden the children's knowledge and understanding of the world they live in.

Environment

People who run the playgroup ensure that children are cared for in a safe, secure and clean environment. For example, staff oversee the secure entry system to the premises and record all visitors. Comprehensive risk assessments are in place, including health and safety procedures regarding COVID-19. The building is new and the local authority ensure all required safety checks are in place. Staff register children into and out of the building so that they know exactly who, and how many children are in their care. However, staff did not consistently record themselves promptly into the staff register. Whilst staff/child ratios exceeded National Minimum Standards, the RI needs this full information to monitor ratios and to ensure she can account for all people in an emergency.

There is sufficient space and suitable facilities to meet the needs of children and support their development and learning. Both the inside and outside play areas are welcoming and provide stimulating opportunities to extend children's play and learning. Staff are able to provide younger children with privacy during nappy change as there is a separate nappy changing room. Older children have direct access to toilet and wash hand facilities that are of an appropriate height to encourage their independence. There are age-appropriate tables and chairs, which helps promote children's independence and ensures that all children are comfortable when playing. Children have access to resources that are suitable for their needs and stored in a way that allows them to choose toys independently. Staff set up the environment to provide opportunities for continuous play provision to promote children's choices. There is easy direct access to a well-equipped play area that encourages children's physical development and health. Staff incorporate natural and sustainable materials in children's play effectively. Staff and children have planted a wild flower area to encourage insects and to stimulate children's knowledge and interaction with the natural world around them. Resources such as magnifying glasses and books about insects extend this exploration.

The RI and her staff monitor resources and equipment very effectively. The RI plans well for future resources and has recently had success in accessing a grant for more outside equipment such as a mud kitchen. Resources and equipment are very well maintained and of very good quality. Resources promote multi-cultural awareness and there are ample welsh resources to support learning the welsh language.

Leadership and Management

Leadership is very effective and managers are motivated and passionate about provision of care, and development of the service. The management team is supportive and committed to ensuring that the whole workforce implements good working practices. Policies, procedures and guidance are of a good standard and reviewed regularly.

Management undertake a thorough annual review of the service and consult with parents, staff and children. They consider and reflect upon feedback from parents very well. This informs an action plan, which outlines the priorities for the future. Improvements to the service are tangible and have a positive impact upon children's experiences. The RI has a strong vision for the service and communicates this very well to the staff group.

Recruitment and induction procedures are very thorough and equip staff to do their job well. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to make sure children are well cared for at all times. Staff undertake all mandatory training and the RI facilitates and encourages staff to complete additional training as part of their professional development. Staff meet on a daily basis to exchange information, attend team meetings and have termly supervisions and annual appraisals. The RI ensures sufficient cover for holidays, sickness and training. Staff told us they feel supported and confident in their role. The person in charge (PIC) said that the RI is supportive, and provided her with a good induction in order to perform her duties effectively.

Staff and managers understand the importance of building good relationships with outside organisations and parents. Communication with parents and carers is well maintained and supported with technology. Parents we spoke with reported a very high level of satisfaction with the service and the care their children receive. Management have very good relationships with outside agencies and ensure that they access all support available.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R.1. Regularly review child protection and 'Prevent' procedures with all staff so that they gain confidence in implementing them.

R.2. Ensure that all staff sign and record their times in and out of the setting promptly.

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. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
27	Staffing. The RP had not ensured that the service operated In line with its statement of purpose as they	Achieved

	had operated at lunch times over their registered numbers.	
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