



Inspection Report

Little Acorns Preschool (Caerphilly) Ltd

**Derwendeg Primary School
Hengoed Road
Cefn Hengoed
Hengoed
CF82 7HP**



Date Inspection Completed

20/10/2023

About Little Acorns Preschool (Caerphilly) Ltd

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Acorns Preschool (Caerphilly) Ltd
Registered places	28
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	24 th March 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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Summary

This was a focused inspection, and on this occasion, we did not consider all themes in detail.

Children are happy, relaxed and enjoy their time at the setting. They are confident to express their ideas and opinions and can make decisions about how they spend their time. Children are developing positive relationships with each other and staff. Children's independence is beginning to develop.

Children's needs are suitably considered. Staff review and implement a range of appropriate procedures to promote children's health and safety.

The setting is safe and secure. The people who run the setting ensure procedures such as robust risk assessments are in place. Which support staff to recognise and respond to potential risks appropriately.

The people who run the setting are committed to providing a quality service. They ensure safe recruitment processes are in place and staff have the appropriate qualifications and experiences required to care for children.

Well-being

Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. They can move freely around the play space, making decisions as to where and what they want to play with from the variety of interesting toys and activities available to them. Children express themselves effectively, knowing staff will listen to their needs, moods and wants. Children are encouraged but not required to participate in activities and routines if they do not wish to. For example, some children participated alongside a member of staff using chalks to draw pumpkins, while others chose to engage with other activities, such as the sticky bricks or reading books.

Children are very happy at the setting; they feel valued and have a strong sense of belonging. They clearly enjoy being in the company of other children, forming warm and affectionate friendships and developing secure relationships with staff. Children know the daily routines very well, which helps them feel settled and confident in their surroundings. Children receive lots of encouragement and praise from staff when learning new skills, giving them the confidence to play and learn. For example, a child showed great delight when decorating a biscuit with their own Halloween design. Chatting to us confidently, pointing out the eyes they had included in their design.

Children are relaxed and enjoy their time at the setting. They interact positively with their friends and staff, playing happily alongside each other or together. Children are learning to share toys and resources. We saw a small group of children and a member of staff in the home corner. A child was pretending to serve stew from a saucepan onto individual plates. The other children engaged in the role play, pretending to eat, sitting at the table together.

Children enjoy and are engaged in their play. They are enthusiastic and fully involved in the activities provided. They benefit from a variety of play opportunities. Children are motivated to follow their own interests and sustain their play for periods suitable to their stage of development.

Children are beginning to develop a wide range of skills as they play and engage in routines. They have good opportunities to become independent, enabling them to do things for themselves. We saw children competently accessing the toilet and washing their hands. At snack time children use spoons proficiently to eat their cereal. This promotes children's self-help skills and builds their self-esteem.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Staff consider children's health and safety needs suitably. They follow procedures to accurately record staff and children's times of arrival and departure. Staff implement appropriate procedures to support children when recording, maintaining and reviewing records such as, accident records. Staff implement suitable procedures to support children when administering medication. Staff we spoke to are confident in the procedures to follow when administering and storing medication in line with the settings policy. Staff are confident when implementing appropriate procedures to support children who have allergies and intolerances, which is supported by a detailed policy to ensure any new staff would know what is expected of them. Staff work in partnership with Local Authority professionals to support children with additional needs, ensuring children have their individual plans reviewed in a timely manner.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The setting is safe and secure. Procedures such as fire drills are carried out with children at regular periods, ensuring they are familiar with the process to follow should there be a fire at the setting. People who run the setting ensure key details, including comments as to the learning identified during the practice drills are recorded and used to inform future practices. There are a suitable range of risk assessments and daily safety check lists in place. These identify potential hazards in the environment and include steps to be taken to minimise these risks. The risk assessments also include some of the activities undertaken with children.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The people who run the setting are committed to providing a quality service, responding positively to all recommendations for improvement highlighted during the last inspection. There is a clear statement of purpose which provides parents with relevant information about the setting, so they can make an informed choice. People who run the setting understand their responsibilities to ensure staff are recruited safely, have the appropriate qualifications and experiences required to care for children as outlined in the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years.

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
28	The responsible individual failed to ensure that all required suitability checks on staff employed have been carried out prior to appointment at the setting. The responsible individual must be satisfied that staff employed have the appropriate skills and are suitable to work with children.	Achieved

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
30	The responsible individual failed to ensure that accurate records such as children and staff hours of attendance and accident records are maintained and securely stored. The responsible individual must ensure that procedures are in place and followed by staff to maintain accurate records to safeguard children's health and safety.	Achieved
26	The responsible individual failed to ensure that medication is stored appropriately in line with the setting policy. The responsible individual must ensure that procedures are in place and followed by staff regarding the storage of medication to ensure children's health and safety is maintained.	Achieved
25	The responsible individual failed to identify, assess and minimise risk to children at the setting. Suitable arrangements must be in place to identify and eliminate risks.	Achieved
14	The responsible individual failed to ensure that there is a sufficient number of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced persons looking after the relevant children as outlined in National Minimum standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years. The responsible individual must ensure that staff have the required qualification, skills and experience to be able to fully meet the children's needs. The responsible individual failed to ensure that the role of 'person in charge' remains supernumerary at all times. Therefore, the responsibilities/tasks associated to the leadership and management role to ensure the smooth running of the service are not being fully met.	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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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