



Inspection Report

Marford Playgroup Little Explorers Ltd

**Marford Community Centre
Pant Lane
Marford
LL12 8SH**



Date Inspection Completed

18/08/2021

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About Marford Playgroup Little Explorers Ltd

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Marford Playgroup Little Explorers Ltd
Registered places	42
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	15/01/2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No

<u>Well-being</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Care and Development</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Environment</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	No Rating Required

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

Summary

“This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic, therefore we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.”

Children are happy to talk and they are curious learners. They are very confident about what they are doing and like in the setting. Children make choices and are happy and busy. They feel safe and play alongside each other well, making friends. They have exceptionally positive relationships with staff and enjoy their play and learning.

Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop their skills at their own pace. They promote children’s play, learning and development and meet their individual needs effectively. Staff give children’s safety and happiness priority. They interact effectively providing reassurance and support. They are experienced and provide interesting and exciting activities and songs to help children develop well.

People who run the service ensure children have good access to a range of good quality resources and equipment. This includes plenty of natural and recycled materials giving them good opportunities to work with different resources and learn through play.

People who run the service have effective partnerships with parents and have developed learning opportunities within the local community. They maintain good lines of communication with parents and work successfully with them and other professionals to meet children’s individual needs. They offer staff good support in their roles and are committed to improving the service for the children’s benefit. They review the service regularly and plan and complete positive improvements.

Well-being	No Rating Required
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Children are happy to talk, they express themselves well and make choices such as where to play outdoors. Many chose to play in the mud kitchen set out in the shade of large trees or the construction area. They are very confident to tell us what they are doing and what they like in the setting, eagerly showing us a grasshopper they had found. They were gentle with the insect and keen to explain how grasshoppers could jump high because of their long back legs.

Children feel safe and secure and comfortably sit or play alongside their friends and staff. All are happy to play outdoors, in the fresh air. Children confidently approach us to show us what they are doing and are excited to look together at the photos of themselves and their friends. They enjoy pointing out what they are doing and several laugh with a funny story about what they did. They have exceptionally positive relationships with staff whom they readily go to for a chat or for support with something tricky or to proudly show their achievements.

Children interact well for their ages and, for example, they make up games together using paint brushes to excavate tree roots pretending they are bones. They are kind to each other sharing a swing, taking turns to push each other. Children listen to staff and each other and enjoy taking part in action songs dancing and fitting their movements to the music; comb your hair, and superman.

Children are interested and engaged in their play. They have opportunities to join in activities such as building blocks, developing physical skills. Lots of laughter and singing along to music was heard as children really enjoyed being outside. Children explore their outdoor environment freely and access resources themselves. A parent told us that their child could not wait to come and often did not want to leave. Another parent said how quickly their children had settled and made friends. Brothers and sisters take care of each other well and many children show sympathy and kindness towards their friends if they are a bit upset.

Children are developing well and feel at home with the daily routine. They know when they see their parents over the gate it is time to fetch their bags to go home. Their language is developing well through the many conversations they have with each other and staff. Children are learning how to speak basic Welsh through simple words and phrases and singing songs together.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

Staff keep children safe and healthy. They have attended courses and follow policies relating to safeguarding children. They know what to do if they have concerns about a child. Staff allow plenty of time to speak to parents at the end of the session in order to continue to meet the children's individual needs. Staff ensure children wash their hands, reminding them gently after they had been to the bathroom. Staff have a good understanding of a healthy diet and provide nutritious snacks for the children. Staff ensure children's records are fully completed including children's health needs. A register detailed attendance and accidents and minor injuries to the children were noted and brought to parents' attention. Risk assessments are followed which show staff are aware of how to keep the children safe.

Staff are aware of the importance of always using positive behaviour management strategies and supporting children according to their individual needs. Staff were calm and gentle with the children. They used quiet voices and made sure all the children understood. Staff speak to children sensitively and remind them of simple rules such as to be careful when they were balancing on logs or not to push their friends too hard on the swing. Staff used lots of praise and encouragement with the children which was very effective.

Staff support individual children to make progress well, they know the children and are able to provide a good level of care for them. Staff knew instinctively when to stand back and allow children to play on their own on the swing and when to guide and support to ensure they got off carefully. Staff let children decide what to do and spontaneously develop interesting activities. These are interesting and exciting such as archaeology using a range of challenging vocabulary such as "excavating" which children enjoy. Staff assess the children's progress through a balance of child led and adult led activities. Staff provide good opportunities for children to develop their skills at their own pace such as balancing and climbing on the outdoor assault course. They promote children's play, learning and development and meet their individual needs effectively.

Environment

No Rating Required

People who run the service ensure the environment is safe for the children for example the main door and gate are locked making the premises secure from unauthorised access. Written risk assessments effectively identify any potential hazards and keep children safe. People who run the service ensure staff understand their role and responsibilities and they supervise children well during activities. The premises are clean and resources washed as appropriate to ensure a good level of cleanliness. The outdoor play area was secure and children go out every day to play. Regular fire drills are carried out and recorded.

People who run the service provide a suitable environment for children's play and learning which includes making dens. They ensure children are well cared for in a supportive and comfortable environment. This includes a lovely new outdoor classroom, which is filled with interesting resources to develop children's curiosity, consider their interests and meet their individual needs well, even providing a cosy place for tired explorers. A good range of equipment is accessible allowing children to develop their own play by selecting their own toys and utensils and find "Treasure". The room inside and the garden outdoors were divided into areas with a range of play items, mostly natural, including bird songs inside their outdoor cabin which provided a gentle background sound for those having a nap.

People who run the service ensure children have good access to a range of resources and equipment which are of good quality. This includes plenty of natural and recycled materials such as wood and wicker, tyres and crates which suit the children's ages and stages of development, giving them good opportunities to work with different resources and learn through play. Parents say "They could not wish for a better setting".

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

People who run the service manage the setting well and ensure good outcomes for children. The service's statement of purpose provides parents with detailed information they need in order to decide whether the service will meet their and their child's needs. The policies and procedures for the service are followed effectively, making sure the setting has a safe and inclusive atmosphere for all.

People who run the setting are improving the service they provide. They know their service well and have already developed outdoors and made a new garden area for the children to develop their play. A new outdoor classroom is filled with natural and interesting activities which spark the children's curiosity. People who run the service, including the responsible individual told us of their view of the service and how they want it to be. They effectively recognise strengths and areas to develop and make positive changes which benefit children and improve outcomes for them.

People who run the service delegate well, meaning staff have clear roles and responsibilities and are well managed. They ensure all staff files contain the correct information including a DBS check. Regular meetings including full day training ensure staff are all aware of the minimum standards and how to reflect best practice in their work. Staff told us they enjoyed working in the service and it showed. They said they knew who to go to if they needed guidance.

People who run the service have developed effective partnerships with parents and learning opportunities within the local community which benefit the children. For example the setting had been involved in creating a pair of scarecrows for the village competition. The pair of life size bridegroom and bride were displayed at the entrance. The children also take regular walks to a local quarry. They maintain good lines of communication with parents and work successfully with them and other professionals to meet children's individual needs and ongoing development. Parents say they are kept well informed and have plenty of time for unhurried feedback, whilst waiting for their children to finish playing, A parents told us that they "Are very happy with the service and the children are very happy too which is all that matters."

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

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

The Responsible Individual is not meeting Regulation 20 'Make proper provision for the welfare, care, education, supervision and where appropriate treatment of children. The Responsible Individual did not follow policies and procedures in order to meet children's individual needs and support their welfare.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None

Areas where priority action is required

None

Areas where improvement is required

None

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