



Inspection Report

Big Darlings Explorers

**St. Peters Church
Llandevaud
Newport
NP18 2AA**



Date Inspection Completed

18/04/2023

About Big Darlings Explorers

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Darlings Nursery Wales Ltd
Registered places	19
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 October 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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. On this occasion, we only considered well-being in detail and some aspects of leadership and management.

Children are happy, enjoy attending and are confident to express their wishes and ideas. The broad range of good quality resources set out each day, reflect the children's wishes and interests. As a result, children spend long periods engrossed in their imaginative play and are eager to share and talk about what they are doing. Staff plan some basic activities but not all are sufficiently challenging or inspire children to take part. Staff understand and respond to children's needs appropriately. However, there are missed opportunities to help children learn about other cultures and celebrations. Children hear some incidental Welsh but it is not used consistently. Children are able to play outside occasionally, but the garden is not inviting, and resources are not stored securely. This limits the children's play and experiences outside. Children and staff establish good friendships and chat happily as they play.

The provider is keen to make improvements to ensure compliance, but practices are not always consistently applied or sustained. As a result, the service remains non-compliant in relation to records, and a Priority Action Notice has been issued. A recommendation to review and update the statement of purpose, to ensure compliance with regulations, has not been addressed. An Area for Improvement has been raised. Staff know and implement the daily routines well to support the smooth running of the service. However, due to miscommunication from the provider, staff lack clarity regarding their roles and responsibilities.

Well-being

Children readily make decisions about their play and care because they are fully aware of the options available to them. On arrival, they immediately go off to play, finding their favourite toys, games and resources to play with. Children also decide where they sit at teatime. Children know staff listen to them and value what they say. They talk with them about what they are doing, and children are confident to 'chat' and tell staff the toys they would like out the following day. An Easter display included some Welsh words, but Welsh is rarely used during play or daily routines to enhance children's language skills further.

Children are very comfortable and relaxed and have developed strong friendships with staff and other children attending. We observed older and younger children chatting nicely at the craft table, while others were happily playing a card game and discussing their cards. Children's individual needs are generally well met. For example, staff understand and cater for children's specific dietary needs and those who forget their water bottles are given a cup of water, to help them stay hydrated. However, there are missed opportunities to celebrate and recognise important celebrations to extend all children's understanding.

Children behave and interact well. They respond positively to gentle reminders from staff to calm down when they get over excited. We saw children play contently on their own as well as with their friends and show pride in what they do. Children talk enthusiastically about the chicks they made with footprints on the Easter display and eagerly show staff the models they built.

Children have lots of fun and enjoy attending. We observed children excitedly playing with the action hero figures, using their creativity and imagination to act out scenes, flying them through the air. Older children told us they really enjoy coming to the club as there is lots to do and nice food. Children sustain interest in their chosen play for long periods. We observed some children checking with staff if they could go back to what they were doing after teatime, eager to continue their play further. Some children announced they wanted to stay at the service for a longer period to carry on building their characters and scenes.

Children develop good independence in their personal care. We observed children wash their hands properly before teatime. Serving spoons on the table enable children to help themselves to more pasta sauce if they wish. Some children empty their plates when finished and one child was eager to help with sweeping the floor. Children occasionally play outside but the area is not appealing or well organised. As a result, children do not always experience rich activities outdoors. Some planned activities take place each week, but these are not child led. For example, children followed instructions to draw a red cross onto a pre-cut rectangle and stuck it on a lollipop stick. However, there was minimal challenge for the age and ability of the children attending. As a result, only a few children were interested in doing this activity. Several children enjoyed looking at a book about Vietnam with staff and discussing how homes were built on stilts and the possible reasons for this.

Leadership and Management

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

The provider ensures most necessary records are in place but an area of non-compliance raised at previous inspections in relation to records has not been fully addressed. Leaders ensure that specific registers for the school run record accurately the times children come into the care of staff after school. Daily registers are in place to record children and staff attendance. However, departure times of some children and staff are not always recorded to show who is present at any one time. This is placing children's well-being at risk, and we have therefore issued a Priority Action Notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

The provider has a statement of purpose in place as required. This clearly describes the procedures in the event of an emergency and provides accurate and useful information about the complaint's procedure. However, the provider has not addressed the previous recommendation to update the statement of purpose and ensure it contains accurate information and is specific to this service. In addition, the statement displayed at the setting for parents to view, states they provide care for 30 children, but the setting is only registered and cares for 19 children. Therefore, parents are not receiving accurate information about the type of service and care provided for their children. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

All staff who work at the service hold childcare qualifications and a few also hold playwork qualifications to work with school age children. There are consistent staff working at the afterschool club and they work well together to create a calm, happy atmosphere where children enjoy themselves. However, when the person in charge is not present, staff are unclear who is in charge, which causes some confusion for them and parents. Although there are two named deputies noted in the statement of purpose, staff were unaware of this and unclear as to the responsibilities of this role. Staff chat comfortably with parents on collection, to show partnerships are well established.

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
30	The provider must maintain a daily record of the names of the relevant children, their hours of attendance and the names of the persons who looked after them at all times.	Not 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
15	The provider must make sure that they update the statement of purpose, ensure information is accurate and specific to the out of school service provided and that care is provided in a manner which is consistent with the statement of purpose to safeguard and protect children's well-being.	New

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 4 - Meeting individual needs	Improve use of the Welsh language and ensure all staff know and understand individual children's needs, including their social, cultural and religious practices.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Extend opportunities for children to be active and play outdoors and ensure the garden is organised and equipment safely stored.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Improve the planned activities to ensure they provide sufficient challenge for the ages of children attending and that these inspire and develop children's independence and natural curiosity.
Standard 14 - Organisation	Improve communication with staff so that they are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, including who is in charge and who is deputy in the absence of the Person in Charge.

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