



Inspection Report

St Donats Nursery - Llantwit Major

**United World College Of The Atlantic Ltd
St. Donats Castle
Llantwit Major
CF61 1WF**



Date Inspection Completed

02/02/2024

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About St Donats Nursery - Llantwit Major

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	St Donats Nursery Ltd
Registered places	22
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is a post registration inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh Language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	Excellent
<u>Care and Development</u>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this setting and their happiness and voice is the driving force. They have great fun playing with their friends and staff and have a wealth of choice and opportunities to develop different skills. Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence.

Staff are professional, well qualified and passionate about their roles. They implement the setting's policies and procedures effectively. Staff are extremely patient, kind and caring towards each other and the children. They support children's learning and development through a wide range of planned and spontaneous activities led by the children's interests and developmental needs. Staff keep highly valuable records of children's progress.

The environment provides excellent and exciting indoor play space for children to explore. Leaders ensure that the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is a natural extension to the learning environment. There is a wide range of stimulating and innovative resources and toys for children to engage with.

Leadership and management of the setting is exemplary. Leaders have a strong vision for the service and are always looking to improve on already excellent practice. Documentation is well organised and easily accessible. Parents we spoke to were extremely happy with the level of care provided to their children and families. Leaders have worked positively with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), throughout the course of the inspection.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at nursery and their happiness and voice is the driving force of this setting. Children are confident communicators. They engage with their friends, staff and some felt comfortable to chat to us, CIW, and involve us in their play and learning. Children's opinions and interests are highly valued, acted upon and continually reviewed. For example, they make decisions about whether to play inside or outside and continually contribute to how their day unfolds. Children's voices are strong at the setting.

Children cope extremely well with separation because efficient and thorough daily transitions fully recognise and support individual needs and are effectively implemented. They form positive emotional attachments with staff and each other. We saw them comfortably turn to staff for support. For instance, children who were slightly unsettled on arrival were reassured and supported and quickly joined in with the play and activities. Children are happy at this setting, we saw children smiling, laughing, and enjoying themselves. They have a strong sense of belonging and are very familiar with the routines of the day.

Interactions between children and staff are consistently stimulating and children cooperate enthusiastically. Children are praised as they take turns to sing or speak during circle time and look proud as their efforts are recognised and valued. Children consistently interact positively with each other, and clear friendships have formed. They play together and call to each other to come and look at something interesting. Children solve problems as a team. They group together at tidy up time and work as a team to move a heavy box back to an outside shed. They display resilience and determination.

Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a wide range of interesting opportunities indoors and outdoors which spark curiosity and engagement. They benefit from an excellent variety of age-appropriate play and learning resources. They have the freedom to safely explore the indoor and outdoor environment. Children demonstrate resilience, focus, enjoyment and sustained thinking when engaged with activities. They are self-motivated to initiate their own play and to influence their tasks because there is a good balance of child and adult-led activities. Children shape future activities and make suggestions to staff about what they would like to play with in future sessions.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop independence. They are encouraged to take care of their belongings, hanging up their outside clothes on hooks within the yurts as they enter. They work hard to put on their all-in-one suits and wellies before going back outside and know that they can ask staff for help if they need it. Children are self-sufficient at mealtimes and are developing self-care skills. They assess the risk of outside climbing equipment saying to each other, *'Be careful, this is slippery, because it has rain on it.'*

Care and Development**Excellent**

Staff consistently implement policies and promote physical activities, personal safety and wellbeing. Staff identify risks and are proactive and effective when managing this. They ensure that all children can access activities and resources throughout the setting. Staff have an appreciation that managed risk taking is good for children's development. They implement learning from recent courses where they support children in risk assessing and problem solving. This is a real strength of the team. Staff have a thorough understanding of their role in protecting children and answered safeguarding questions confidently. Staff have a thorough understanding of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They are confident in recording accidents and incidents. Children are encouraged to wash their hands independently before some mealtimes however this was not consistent. Staff ensure children have access to daily outdoor play experiences, offering them the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air.

Staff fully understand the behaviour management policy and consistently implement positive behaviour strategies. We heard staff consistently praise children for perseverance and positive behaviour. Staff use praise and positive reinforcement to excellent effect, raising children's self-esteem and confidence to high levels as a result. They are calm, kind and patient in their interactions with children and genuinely delight in children's achievements and efforts. Staff act as excellent role models, consistently using the language associated with good manners. They have good relationships and communicate well with each other. Staff are consistently responsive. They make every effort to genuinely listen and communicate with the children. Interactions are positive, demonstrating warmth, kindness and patience. Staff take time to make sure that their interactions are meaningful and beneficial to the children in their care.

Staff are committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities with an appropriate balance of child and adult-led opportunities. Staff play alongside children looking for opportunities to extend learning and discussion. We heard staff encourage children to experiment with moving over the climbing frame in a different way with children responding enthusiastically to this suggestion saying, *'I'm going to do that again, so fun!'* Staff are quick to seize moments which children initiate and then motivate and inspire them to explore their curiosity and play. For example, they supported children as they mixed and poured paint and water into a cauldron asking what flavour the resulting potion would be. Staff involve children in the planning of activities and children provide the starting point and ideas from which planning evolves. They consistently observe children's play and learning to track their progress and have a very good understanding of the role this plays in identifying the next steps in children's learning and development. Systems are in place to monitor and identify any emerging or additional learning needs children may have. They take purposeful action and make effective use of the support available. Staff promote the Welsh language often, using simple phrases and rhymes, and singing songs to excellent effect.

Environment

Excellent

Leaders have comprehensive policies in place to ensure that the environment is suitably safe, secure and well maintained. Effective and accurate risk assessments, consider risks associated with, for example, adverse weather conditions and the controlled use of the campfire. Regular fire drills are completed so that children know what to do in an emergency. Consistent cleaning routines result in a clean and pleasant indoor environment. The entrance to the setting is secure and only authorised access is granted by staff. Staff are vigilant about any arising risks in the environment. The indoor and outdoor environments are secure and provide a good space for children to play and learn.

The indoor environment is extremely welcoming and very child friendly. The two yurts provide spacious, nurturing and exciting areas for children to explore and develop their awe and wonder. The yurts are warm and envelop the children in a carefully curated design which results in a magical and delightful atmosphere. Calming neutral décor and an emphasis on natural and real-world resources creates a cosy home from home feel. The yurts are very well organised to promote all areas of children's development. Cosy areas encourage children to relax and enjoy stories and books while a kitchen role play area facilitates imaginative play. Leaders ensure that the outdoor play space is used as often as possible and is a natural extension to the learning environment. Careful consideration and planning of outside areas, as well as carefully chosen resources and play equipment, challenge and stimulate children's curiosity and interest. The outdoor play space offers children numerous opportunities and exciting play and learning experiences. Themed sheds, for example, an exploration and investigation shed, house resources which are easily accessible to the children and promote and extend their play opportunities. Children are able to access the resources with the support of staff and are involved in carefully tidying away at the end of their play, giving them a sense of responsibility and care for the things that they have. The environment as a whole supports children in carefree play and enables them to fully and enthusiastically enjoy their time at the setting. There are plans in place to further develop and improve the outdoor place space.

Leaders provide a wide range of very good quality, developmentally appropriate play and some innovative learning resources to ensure children have excellent variety and choice. Children can access toys and resources easily, as they are stored at low level or within their reach. Leaders are committed to providing stimulating resources to promote children's curiosity about the wider society, celebrating diversity, equality and cultural awareness.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The management and leadership of this setting is exemplary. Leaders have a strong vision for the service that they confidently share with others and are always looking to improve on

already excellent practice. Leaders are keen to promote and develop staff and there is a strong culture of continuous professional development. Staff that we have spoken to during this inspection have spoken positively about the support they receive in their roles. The statement of purpose, which was updated during the course of the inspection, is a very thorough, clear and accurate reflection of the service provided to children and their families. Leaders make good use of their locality and have developed strong links with the college. They visit the college's library for example and take children on walks within the grounds.

Leaders ensure that documentation is well organised and easily accessible. Staff files are thorough and all relevant safety checks are completed to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. There is a detailed quality of care report in place which celebrates the nursery's achievements and helps plan for future improvements. Clear targets are set which reflect current best practice. The report considers the views of children, staff and parents.

There is a clear system in place to easily identify that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. Staff have up to date mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. Regular supervisions and annual appraisals ensure that staff can identify and request further training. There is evidence that supervisions are reflected upon by leaders and follow up action take to further support staff in their development. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to ensure children are well always cared for.

Excellent links have been developed between staff and parents. Parents we spoke with told us that they were extremely happy with the care provided to their children. There are excellent forms of communication between the nursery and parents including detailed daily verbal feedback, a regular newsletter, emails and the use of social media. Leaders have worked positively with CIW throughout the course of the inspection.

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
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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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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 10 - Healthcare	Ensure children wash hands before meal times.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children’s well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children’s well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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