



Inspection Report

Seren Fach Nursery

**Seren Fach Nursery
School Close
Ponthir
Newport
NP18 1GA**



Date Inspection Completed

07/12/2023

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About Seren Fach Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Seren Fach Childcare Ltd
Registered places	95
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	3 May 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	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

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion we did not consider care and development. We did not consider environment and leadership and management in detail.

Children settle well and express themselves confidently secure in the knowledge that staff listen and interpret what they need. Many children make choices and have access to a sufficient range of stimulating activities that they enjoy, and which sustain their interest. Children build close attachments with staff and play nicely with their friends. The majority of children are developing their independence and individual skills appropriately.

The people who run the setting continue to invest in the premises and provide a secure environment for children to play and learn. Risk assessments are in place and include some hazards identified at the last inspection, but these are incomplete. Resources in some rooms have improved providing children with a greater range of activities and play experiences.

The people who run the setting are keen to make improvements and provide a quality service for children and their families. They have successfully addressed half of the non-compliance and recommendations identified at the last inspection in May 2023, but others still require action to be compliant.

Well-being

All children express themselves confidently to share their thoughts, feelings and individual needs. The younger children make sounds and use gestures and facial expressions which staff interpret well. For example, a child was upset when playing outside. Staff recognised the child did not like the noise from machinery being used in a neighbouring garden and asked if they wanted to go inside. The child nodded and was taken inside. Most children make choices about their play. They move around their room to find toys they want to play with or activities they want to join in. For example, some children explored Christmas baubles in the water or rolled them in paint to make patterns. However, preschool children are not able to choose where they sit at mealtimes and the choice of activities and resources are more restricted in the younger toddler's room. We saw some children walking around the room aimlessly or peering through the window into another room as there were very little toys and resources set out to engage the children.

Children settle quickly and are comfortable and relaxed in their different groups. They build nice relationships with their friends and strong attachments with staff who tailor their support according to each child's needs. We observed a child being comforted by staff and was able to sit on their lap until they felt ready to go off and play. Children show empathy and maturity in their emotional wellbeing. When someone fell over, a child quickly ran over to offer their support, *"I can help you, are you ok?"*

Children interact and know the routines and what is expected of them well. They help put the toys away at tidy up times and children know to visit the bathrooms to wash their hands before mealtimes. Children are very polite and use their manners well. When the preschool children finished their Yoga session, they all thanked the Yoga teacher and helped to roll up all the mats.

Overall, children enjoy their play and learning. The younger children persevere and show great interest exploring various sensory bags or happily sitting for a story. We saw a child have great fun sitting in a laundry basket with floaty scarves. They smile and laugh as staff pull them along and float the scarves over their head. The older children actively participate in the story during yoga, totally captivated and having lots of fun.

Some children develop an adequate level of independence. Older children serve themselves breakfast but some opportunities are missed to further promote their independence skills. The younger children explore rolling their vehicles up and over the ramps and practice their standing and early walking skills. They are encouraged to eat finger food but were not supported to hold a spoon or feed themselves during mealtimes. The older toddlers show increasing independence when visiting the bathroom and learn to use various tools with the playdough with staff on hand to support if needed.

Environment

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

The people who run the nursery provide a secure environment in which children play and learn appropriately. Clear signs are in place to remind everyone to keep the pedestrian gate closed, and we observed children closing the gate when they were leaving. This removes the risk of children exiting and gaining access to the road when they walk around to other parts of the nursery.

The people running the nursery have addressed several hazards identified at the last inspection in May 2023. For example, in the preschool garden large planters are in place at the top of the slope to minimise the risk of children falling or riding down them. The people who run the nursery maintain a risk assessment folder and staff complete basic risk assessments for their rooms. Specialist assessments are also in place for individual children to ensure their health needs are met. However, staff seldom complete the daily safety check lists for the garden and the general risk assessments fail to identify all hazards. For example, children walking past trolleys with hot food and Christmas trees with lights. We observed younger children falling off outdoor equipment and frequently interacting with the large snowman and Father Christmas that are not secured and could fall. This is still having an impact on children's health and wellbeing and placing them at risk. Where providers fail to take priority action, we will take enforcement action.

The people who run the nursery continue to invest to improve outcomes for children. They are currently creating a sensory room and ensure sensory resources and activities are available daily for the younger children. However, resources in some rooms are lacking. This limits the play and learning opportunities available for children in those rooms. The carpet areas for circle time are too small in some rooms. As a result, there is not enough space for all the children to sit comfortably.

Leadership and Management

The people who run the nursery are passionate about the service they provide for children and their families. Following the last inspection in May 2023, sufficient action has been taken to address three of the six non-compliance and three out of the six recommendations. Changes to how the three managers are deployed is having a positive impact on the smooth running of the nursery. They each take responsibility for set age groups, enabling them to monitor each room more closely. They support and monitor new staff, undertake robust inductions and conduct regular and meaningful staff supervisions. As a result, staff feel listened to and supported, and new staff demonstrate good awareness of the nursery's policies and procedures, including safeguarding. The people running the nursery are now submitting notifications of any changes to staffing and the statement of purpose promptly.

The people running the nursery ensure all necessary records are in place. The staff and children's files now contain all the necessary information. Daily attendance registers are in place and there are new systems for recording when staff exit the building on their breaks. However, scrutiny of room registers highlight staff do not complete them consistently to show who is present in each room at any one time. This still has an impact on children's wellbeing and places them at risk. Where providers fail to take priority action, we will take enforcement action. The records also identify during staff's morning or lunch time breaks there are insufficient numbers of staff working directly with the children. In several rooms the ratios of staff to children have frequently been over the one adult to four children or one adult to eight children. On occasions this has been exceeded by up to 15 children. The responsible individual did not recognise that staff breaks needed to be covered to maintain correct ratios. This still places children at increased risk of harm in the event of an emergency or safeguarding concern. Where providers fail to take priority action, we will take enforcement action.

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
25	The provider must ensure that risk assessments both inside and outside are robust and identify all hazards and the risks these pose to children and sufficient safeguards are put in place to minimise these.	Not Achieved
27	The provider must ensure there are sufficient numbers of staff present to maintain ratios to safeguard and protect children's welfare.	Not Achieved
30	The provider must ensure that daily attendance registers clearly show children's hours of attendance and the names of staff looking after them in each room at any one time.	Not Achieved
29	The provider must ensure a robust induction is completed promptly for all new staff and that all staff have regular supervision that is meaningful and gives both staff and management opportunities to reflect on	Achieved

	their practice, discuss performance and identify any gaps in their knowledge to highlight training needs.	
31	The provider must notify CIW of all events referred to in the regulations and ensure these are submitted prior to the event occurring where it is reasonably practicable to do so, and in all cases, not later than 14 days after the event has occurred.	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
15	The provider must review and update the statement of purpose as changes occur and, wherever practicable, notify CIW of any changes to the statement of purpose at least 28 days before they take effect.	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)
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Improve the system in place to quality assure and monitor all aspects of the service so that it is more robust, balanced and identifies strengths and areas for improvement.

Standard 23 - Equipment	Extend and replenish resources, including sensory and messy play materials, throughout the day so that all children can engage in a variety of meaningful play experiences and learning opportunities.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Extend opportunities for children to develop their independence during play and daily routines.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Improve the choices available to children during play and daily routines.

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