



Inspection Report

Heavens Little Treasures Brynhyfryd Flying Start Playgroup

**45 Wern Bank
Briton Ferry
Neath
SA11 2ND**



Date Inspection Completed

08/07/2021

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2021.

You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

About Heavens Little Treasures Brynhyfryd Flying Start Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Mark Sherwood
Registered places	26
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert 10 December 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service.

Summary

Children are settled and happy at this playgroup. They are able to make some choices in their play and learning and enjoy their time at the playgroup. Appropriate procedures are in place to keep children safe and healthy. Care staff know children well and work to support their learning and development. The environment indoors is light, airy and spacious and there is a large attached outdoor space for children to use. The person running the playgroup ensures it is generally safe and well maintained.

The person running the playgroup has systems, policies, procedures and records in place that are suitable for the running of the playgroup. Since the last inspection, they have been working to make improvements in this area. The playgroup is now compliant with regulations; however, they need to take further steps to fully meet recommendations made. The person running the playgroup develops strong relationships with parents.

Well-being

Children are able to make some choices about how they spend their time at playgroup. They choose what they would like to do for parts of the session whilst joining in with routines such as carpet time and snack at other times. Children communicate confidently using verbal and non-verbal methods appropriate for them as individuals, as they know staff listen to them and respond to their needs.

Children are happy at the playgroup and enjoy their play. They arrive at the service settled and separate from their carers with ease. They have a sense of belonging and benefit from consistent care staff who know them well. They chat easily with care staff. For example, we heard a conversation between children and care staff about what they had all had for lunch that day as they engaged companionably at the drawing table.

Children play and interact with others in ways that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development. Some are developing friendships. For example, one child helped another to learn the actions to a song by carefully showing them what to do with their hands. Some play alongside others. Interactions between children and care staff are positive and children actively seek out care staff to play with them.

Children are engaged in their play and learning. They concentrate on their chosen activities for good amounts of time. Several children spent more than 20 minutes engaged in drawing pictures. Most of the children joined in enthusiastically with spontaneous group activities such as dancing as well as more structured circle time activities such as story time. Children experience a routine that is a mix of free play with some adult-led activities.

Children are learning and developing through the opportunities they are given at this playgroup. They have some opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do some things for themselves successfully. However, there are some missed opportunities for them to do this. For example, children had their coats put on for them when they went out to play on the veranda. Indoor activities support children's learning and development well but the outdoor area is not used to its full potential. For example, the children did not play outside on the day of our visit because at times it was raining. This has an impact on their opportunities for physical play as well as experiences of different types of play and learning dependant on the weather conditions.

Care and Development

Overall, care staff work appropriately to keep children safe and healthy. A recent incident highlighted that a few staff do not always follow the setting's procedures. The person running the playgroup ensured that they took appropriate action in relation to this. For example, they reminded care staff of their roles and responsibilities, and reviewed and revised procedures around dropping off and picking up children. Care staff are aware of children's dietary needs although the information in the kitchen about allergies and preferences was not up to date. Care staff implement good cleaning and hygiene practices and wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate to the task. For example, they wear wipe clean aprons and gloves to prepare and serve healthy snacks. They follow COVID procedures and keep socially distanced from other adults. There is a suitable safeguarding policy in place. The person running the playgroup and care staff know what they need to do if they have concerns about a child. The person running the playgroup obtains parents' permission to administer medication as the need arises. They have systems in place to ensure on-going medication needed by children and care staff such as asthma inhalers are always available on site when the relevant people are present.

Care staff interact well with children. They offer encouragement and praise to children. There is a behaviour management policy in place although we did not see any instances of challenging behaviour during our visit.

Care staff are responsive; they listen to and support the children in their chosen play and learning. For example, a child picked up a ball and a member of the care staff asked if they wanted to play with it. They then played roll the ball for several minutes using language such as ready, steady, go and one, two, three. The member of care staff also drew another child into the game. Care staff use a good amount of Welsh during group times and in their interactions with children and there is a selection of books written in Welsh for children to choose. Care staff plan activities around a theme, they observe children and complete development tracker documents for them. They provide a basic choice of resources for children to play with which are limited by considerations of Covid-19 infection control measures. Care staff offer some opportunities for children to develop their independence skills. Although care staff currently have reduced opportunities to develop children's independence skills due to limitations made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic, there are areas where they miss opportunities to do this. For example, they do not encourage children to try to put on their own coats. The person running the playgroup ensures they provide support for children with additional learning needs. For example by providing one to one adult support if beneficial and individual play plans that are agreed with parents and other professionals and reviewed regularly. Care staff offer children some opportunities for outdoor play. However, during our visit, the children accessed the covered veranda area for a short time but did not use the larger outdoor space as it was raining for some of the session.

Environment

The person running the playgroup ensures the environment is safe, clean and well maintained. Good risk assessments are in place that include recent considerations of the measures needed to reduce the risks of Covid-19. The person who runs the playgroup ensures that they carry out fire drills each term. The person running the playgroup told us that the premises have recently had an electrical inspection but they have not yet received the certificate to confirm this.

The playroom is bright, welcoming and well ventilated. There is ample space for children to move around and play. The layout enable children to choose independently some activities and resources. There is a large outdoor area wrapping around the building that can provide different learning environments. For example, an area for growing, an area for climbing frames and large apparatus and a covered veranda.

There is a good amount of resources although children do not currently have free access to them all due to restrictions made necessary by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there is a lack of natural resources and some resources lack challenge for older children. Furniture and facilities are appropriate for the age of the children who use the playgroup and are of good quality.

Leadership and Management

The person running the playgroup has the documents and records needed to run the service. At the previous inspection, we found that many of these contained out of date information and did not accurately reflect the current service or fully meet the regulations or national minimum standards. The person running the playgroup has started to update all documentation and ensure necessary detail but more work is needed to complete this.

During this inspection, we found that the person running the playgroup records which children and care staff are present during each session. However, they did not record the actual time of arrival and departure of individual children. This meant that they remained non-compliant with regulations as we could not be certain at all times who was present or which care staff were looking after which children, for example if someone left or arrived at a session early or late. Since the inspection, the person running the playgroup has put in place a new system and has shown us evidence of it in use. The registered person is also the person in charge on a daily basis and works well with care staff to provide a culture where children, care staff and families are valued.

The person running the playgroup produces a quality of care report that includes the views of parents, children and care staff. It is not reflective or self-evaluative.

The person running the playgroup generally follows adequate recruitment procedures although they had not recorded seeing evidence of identity or qualifications for a recently appointed member of care staff. Since the inspection, the person running the playgroup has confirmed that these records are now in place. They have a system in place for induction training, regular supervision meetings and annual appraisals. The records of these meetings do not include details of the conversations or agreed development targets. All the care staff we spoke to following our inspection in December 2020 told us they enjoy working at the playgroup and feel well supported.

The person running the playgroup and the care staff develop very good relationships with parents. We spoke to three parents following our previous inspection who all told us they are very happy with the playgroup and their children enjoy attending. They were especially complimentary about how well all the adults work with them when settling their children into the playgroup. The parents we spoke to felt well informed about their children's progress and said they would be confident to speak to the person running the playgroup if they had any problems. The person running the playgroup accesses external professional support through the Flying Start service.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 – Ensure that all policies, procedures and documents reflect current practice, are dated, reviewed regularly, updated as necessary and contain appropriate detail; and ensure that all care staff know and follow all policies and procedures.

R2 – Consider how to make better use of the outdoor environment to help support children's development.

R3 – Consider ways to further develop children's independence and self-help skills notwithstanding the limitations necessary due to Covid-19.

R4 – Ensure the certificates relating to building safety checks are available for inspection.

R5 – Consider developing the quality of care report to be more reflective and evaluative so that it can be used to inform action plans.

R6 – Ensure all relevant checks for new care staff are recorded in their staff file.

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

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	
------	--

Date Published 31/08/2021