



Inspection Report

Little Angels Playgroup

**Blenheim Road Integrated Children's Centre
Blenheim Road
Community Primary School
Cwmbran
NP44 4SZ**



Date Inspection Completed

28/03/2022

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About Little Angels Playgroup

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Marcella Passmore
Registered places	36
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	19 July 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. 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

Children settle well and are happy. The service is child centred with a strong emphasis upon children directing their own play and learning. They have opportunities to become independent and develop their skills through a range of good quality creative experiences. Children form close bonds with each other and staff, making them feel safe and secure.

Staff are professional, well qualified and work together as an effective team. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Management have implemented new policies and procedures in response to Covid19 effectively and staff have a good understanding of the measure. Staff plan for a wide variety of activities, which capture children's imagination. Staff keep sound records of children's progress and development; these need to consistently record children's next steps in learning.

The environment is clean, welcoming and well organised. Staff follow procedures to ensure the environment is safe and suitable, completing risk assessments and daily checks. A well planned sheltered area outside provides a seamless indoor and outdoor classroom experience. A good variety of indoor and outdoor toys and resources promote children's all round development.

The leadership and management of the setting is good. The manager is experienced, listens to staff and involves them in decision making. Staff feel well supported and enjoy their work. They receive good development opportunities to keep their skills and knowledge up to date. There are good policies, procedures and records in place. Parents are very complimentary and speak highly of the staff and the care their children receive.

Well-being

Children are encouraged to make their own decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They are able to choose from a variety of activities. Children spend their time engaging in arts and craft activities. During the inspection a small group of children were observed to be doing a cutting and sticking activity, looking happy to be part of the group. Children are listened to and have conversations with staff about their interests and ideas. For example, an older child proudly showed their finished artwork to a member of staff telling them 'My mum will like this when I take it home'.

Children are content, happy and valued. They develop strong attachments with key workers and they are comfortable to approach familiar people when they need help or reassurance. Children gain a sense of security from being familiar with the routine of the service. They are beginning to form friendships with others and we saw children happily playing together with the activities on offer to them. Children playing alone, were content and remained on task when joined by other children and staff in the activity.

Children have good opportunities to develop their skills with the play and learning experiences provided. They are curious and engaged learners who value the chance to explore the environment. The emphasis is on free play but there are also structured adult led activities which children participate in and enjoy. For example, an activity to assess children's understanding of pre-positioning was well planned and executed. The staff leading the activity, asked a small group of children to take turns in choosing a different coloured miniature bear. Each child was asked to place the bear 'above', 'below', 'underneath' or 'to the side' of the wooden bridge. The children looked engaged and achieved the task. The instructions were clear and the pre-position keyword was emphasised by the staff leading the activity.

Children have some opportunities to develop self-help skills. They are confident to follow their own interests and seek out activities that interest them. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves. We saw children being supported to put on their coats to go out to play.

Care and Development

There are effective systems in place to monitor the health and safety of children. Good safeguarding procedures promote the welfare of children. Staff understand their responsibility to be vigilant and are clear about the processes to follow to deal with any concerns. Staff receive regular safeguarding training and keep up to date with all relevant information. Regular fire drill practices ensure that staff and children are aware of how to evacuate the premises safely. All staff are up to date with the service's mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding including prevent, food and hygiene training.

Staff work together well to implement good hygiene practices and cleaning routines which help ensure children are safe and healthy, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. These include thorough cleaning routines throughout the day. Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly. The service provides a wraparound facility with the school nursery next door and families using both services send their children with packed lunch. The playgroup provides all the children with a morning and afternoon healthy snack. Although snack times are generally well organised children's independence was somewhat restricted. For example, we noted that children were asked what food they wanted to eat and staff put an amount of pre- peeled and pre-cut food on each plate. Manager's ensure information relating to allergies is shared with all the staff so that children are carefully monitored.

Staff interact in a kind and caring manner with the children, supporting their learning and development effectively. They are consistent in their approach and mindful of the age and stage of development of the children when managing behaviour issues. Staff use soft tones to distract children who are frustrated or upset and praise children for all their efforts. They show enjoyment in their roles and provide comfort for children who are distressed.

Staff know children well and understand their individual needs and preferences. Keyworkers liaise closely with the flying start professionals and in the main use the flying start observation and assessments records. However, we noted that children's next steps in learning are not noted consistently. Key workers ensure that relevant information is transferred between the service and the school nursery. Staff are working together to produce a formal system to plan and monitor children's development and achievements. Incidental Welsh is used within the service, we heard children and staff sing in Welsh and they use Welsh in activities such as counting and recognising the Welsh words for colours.

Environment

The environment is safe, secure and attractive, providing spacious accommodation for children's activities. Staff complete safety checks of the environment to identify and where possible, eliminate any risks to children's safety. Non-essential visitors are not permitted due to the pandemic. Safety certificates are up to date and policies and procedures, including a Covid-19 policy were readily available on request. There is a risk assessment in place, which staff implement to keep everyone safe during the pandemic. There are effective risk assessments in place for all aspects of the premises that identify and eliminate risks.

The environment is clean and well maintained and reflects good hygiene procedures. It provides light, bright and spacious areas for children to explore. The toilet facilities are clean and staff accompany children to the toilet when required or supervise from afar to allow children to become more independent. There is a wide range of good quality resources and provides a rich environment for play and learning. Children are able to access toys easily, which supports their independence. The outdoor play area is safe and secure and offers plenty of opportunities for active play. Children have opportunity to continue to play outside during inclement weather. This is because a good proportion of the outdoor play area has good, sheltered area which is designed for continuous play from the inside classroom. Children have good opportunities throughout the day to choose activities which includes wheeled toys, this helps them to extend their learning and development. Staff are well deployed in both indoor and outside space.

Leadership and Management

Leadership and management of the service is good. The Registered Person who is also the person in charge is experienced and provides good daily support to the staff team, who are well qualified and knowledgeable. The deputy and the person in charge, have a clear vision for the service and there is a development plan in place to keep track of changes planned over the coming year. The statement of purpose is detailed and provides parents with good information about the setting so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. There are detailed policies and procedures in place which the Registered Person reviews and updates routinely.

Management of the service are committed to providing the best quality care provision to children and their families and the staff team are enthusiastic and motivated. The leaders and staff are dedicated, they have a clear vision. All policies and procedures are in place and contain the required information. However, we noted that some information such as the contact details of the local authority safeguarding board and the regulator CIW contact details were not noted in pertinent policies. The leader carries out checks to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to make sure children are well cared for, at all times.

Staff are deployed effectively and are clear about their responsibilities. They told us they feel supported by the manager and the deputy. All staff are well qualified and they have the skills and training to enable them to carry out their roles. Staff files are complete and all relevant checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children are in place. All staff receive annual appraisals and regular supervisions to monitor their performance and identify further training.

The provider has established trust and very good communication links with flying start who work closely with the staff and parents. Parents we spoke to praise the service they receive and the staff. They told us that staff are supportive and that nothing is a problem for them. This includes staff helping parents to get more support at home arranged through the flying start services. Children benefit from the service being operated as part of the Flying Start programme.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Encourage more independence during snack times.

R2. Ensure children's assessments are completed regularly to help identify their next steps across all areas of learning and ensure these are shared with parents throughout the year.

R3. Ensure policies and procedures include contact details for external agencies such as safeguarding board and CIW

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
28 (2) (b) [i]	The registered person must not employ a person to look after relevant children unless that person is suitable to do so. Action to be taken; The registered person must provide CIW with evidence that all suitability checks have been undertaken for all members of staff.	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

Date Published 28/06/2022