



Inspection Report

First Steps Nursery

**Y Garth
Alexandra Road
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 5LS**



Date Inspection Completed

02/09/2021

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About First Steps Nursery

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Theresa Mills
Registered places	32
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	2 March 2021
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
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

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider every theme in detail.

Children are happy, comfortable and relaxed at the setting. Children cope well with separation from their parents and are settled. Children are forming friendships and are learning to co-operate, take turns and share. They are active and curious learners and engage in play-based activities.

Care staff provide a nurturing and caring atmosphere. Care staff meet individual needs and treat all children with dignity and respect. They have regard for individual children and their stage of development. Care staff implement procedures for food hygiene and infection control.

The people who run the setting ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They ensure that the premises and outside play areas are secure and welcoming. The layout of the environment promotes children's independence. There are suitable facilities and opportunities for children to play and experiment. Resources are of a suitable design and condition.

The people who run the setting have a clear Statement of Purpose, which communicates their vision for the setting. The people who run the setting promote safe practices and actively support everyone to do their best. They create a positive ethos whereby children and care staff feel valued.

Well-being

Children are happy and relaxed at the setting. They play with smiles on their faces. Children are confident communicators and their interests are valued. While waiting for their lunch children ask the staff if they can sing some songs. Children take turns to pull out wooden spoons painted with nursery rhyme characters from a sack to choose which song they would sing. Children are polite and use good manners. Children sit contently and listen carefully to the staff.

Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a good range of interesting opportunities indoors and outdoors. Children take turns, using natural resources, and loose parts to create a self-portrait. Children enjoy listening to a story and excitedly engage with the resources in the story sack, which brings the story to life. Children take part in activities and are supported and encouraged. They joyfully take turns to play percussion instruments during a singing session while others joined in with actions, dancing and singing along resulting in a good feeling of achievement.

Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills, trying to complete tasks successfully for themselves. Before snack time children work together to help tidy up and put away all the toys and resources. They use the toilet facilities and wash their hands independently. Children are able to choose an alternative snack if they do not like the strawberries and banana. During lunch, older children eat their food independently. The children are encouraged to learn life skills and told us proudly that they had helped to prepare the potatoes ready for their lunch.

Care and Development

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

Care staff listen and respect children's views. Care staff demonstrate warmth and kindness. They are sensitive to the needs of individual children. Care staff comfort children who are new to the setting. Care staff ensure that transition periods are successful for children to feel comfortable at the setting. Care staff are positive role models and praise the children regularly. *"Well done that's beautiful sitting, high five."* Interactions between the care staff and the children are positive. Care staff question the children to develop understanding. *"What kind of tail has he got? What colour is his tail? What's that in Welsh?"*

Care staff implement good cleaning and hygiene practices. Care staff wipe down surfaces with anti-bacterial spray regularly. They wipe down the toilet facilities after every use and thoroughly clean the tables before serving lunch. Care staff wipe children's noses and encourage children to cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing. Windows and doors are open to ensure sufficient ventilation through the playroom.

Environment

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

The environment is safe and secure. The new wooden gate and fencing around the outer perimeter of the service is ensuring children's safety when playing outside. Care staff lock the gate after the children have arrived and visitors must telephone the setting to gain entry. The playrooms are well maintained, bright and inviting. Care staff display educational posters such as colours and numbers on the walls. Most of the children are able to move freely to the outdoors from their playroom. The outdoor play space is used regularly. The people who run the setting have recently used a grant to purchase new resources for the outdoor environment. The people who run the setting organise the environment well. The children have access to age appropriate furniture. Tables and chairs are suitable for the ages cared for and toilet facilities are smaller. The children are able to access toys and resources independently from storage that is at their level.

Leadership and Management

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

The people who run the setting have a definite vision for the service. They maintain and share an up to date statement of purpose that is a true reflection of the service provided. The people who run the setting understand their role and responsibilities. They are visible at the setting to support staff in their roles. They ensure that they keep registers for staff and children up to date and deploy staff well to ensure staffing ratios. However, the registers often use numbers of staff to note staffing ratios and do not always include the names of the staff in the playroom. The people who run the setting have procedures and risk assessments in place. Recently reviewed risk assessments, procedures and additional safety measures have improved children's security and safety. Communication and engagement with parents is good, and a nursery newsletter is distributed regularly. The people who run the setting have a good understanding of their responsibilities to promote the Welsh language. They are working towards many elements of the Active Offer of the Welsh language.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Ensure that the deployment of staff records detail which staff member works in each playroom to monitor the movement of staff within the setting.

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

The registered person has not ensured that children are closely supervised at all times.

Regulation 20 (1) (a)
Regulation 20 (1) (b)

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

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