



Inspection Report

Thornhill Playgroup

**Community Centre
Leadon Court
Thornhill
Cwmbran
NP44 5TZ**



Date Inspection Completed

30/06/2023

About Thornhill Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Victoria Rogers
Registered places	16
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	8 th November 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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Summary

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

Children are happy and enjoy attending the setting. They feel safe and secure in the care of staff. Children receive suitable opportunities and can make choices about how to spend their time. They develop their independence through a range of learning and play experiences.

Staff consider the health and safety of children. They are confident to implement the settings policies and procedures. Staff are generally alert when dealing with any safeguarding matters. They know the children well and carry out assessments and observations to ensure they are meeting the children's individual needs.

The setting is safe and secure. The registered person undertakes suitable measures to carry out and log all necessary safety checks. They use a range of risk assessments and daily check lists to identify and eliminate potential hazards to children's safety. Some risk assessments lack detail.

The registered person is committed to providing a quality service. Staff files contain all the necessary information required by regulation to evidence their suitability. The registered person communicates important information to staff and regular supervision and appraisals have begun to take place.

Well-being

Children have suitable opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. They have a variety of beneficial toys and activities available to them. Children express themselves effectively, knowing staff listen to their needs, moods and wants. For example, a child shared how they did not want to wear the setting's outdoor wet weather suit but their own jacket to go outside to play; staff respected this.

Nearly all children are very happy at the setting, they feel valued and have a strong sense of belonging. They clearly enjoy being in the company of other children, forming warm and affectionate friendships and developing secure relationships with staff. Children know the daily routines very well, which helps them feel settled and confident in their surroundings. They receive lots of encouragement and praise from staff when learning new skills, giving them the confidence to play and learn. For example, a child sat at the drawing table and became very excited when the staff member acknowledged their attempt at writing.

Nearly all children are relaxed and enjoy their time at the setting. They interact positively with their friends and staff, playing happily alongside each other or together. Children are learning to share toys and resources. We saw children sharing space and resources well during sand play, enjoying working together to fill up the bucket and tipping it out to create a sandcastle. Other children wait patiently for a staff member to access the ride along toys from the shed.

Nearly all children thoroughly enjoy and are engaged in their play. They benefit from a variety of play opportunities. Children are motivated to follow their own interests and sustain their play for periods suitable to their age and stage of development. For instance, a child proudly showed a staff member their dinosaur and pretended the dinosaur was walking around the garden and eating the leaves. They engage fully in their imaginative play.

Children are beginning to develop a wide range of skills as they play. They have good opportunities to become independent, enabling them to do things for themselves. We saw children take off their wellies and put their shoes on competently, while other children are offered support when needed. They confidently choose activities, which supports them to develop independent thinking skills and make their own decisions. For example, a child assertively requested to play with the moulding dough, which was not set up as an activity. Staff responded positively to the request to the delight of the child.

Care and Development

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

Staff consider the health and safety of children. All staff attend regular safeguarding training via the Local Authority. They have undertaken detailed in-house training and reviewed procedures to follow should they have concerns about a child. Staff are confident to implement the setting's policies and procedures and are generally alert when dealing with any safeguarding matters.

Staff know the children well. They carry out regular observations and assessments of all children via focused activities to enable them to monitor children's progress. They use this information to plan opportunities to support the child's next steps in their development, ensuring they are meeting the child's individual needs.

Environment

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

The setting is safe and secure and provides ample space for children to play and learn. The registered person writes and reviews risk assessments for specific activities carried out in the setting. However, not all written risk assessments are completed fully. For example, details such as review dates and the name of the person completing the assessment are not always recorded. Staff complete daily checks to identify and eliminate potential hazards to children's safety in the environment. Staff maintain accurate daily registers of who is caring for children, and they ensure only authorised entry to the setting, through keeping a log of any visitors. Fire drills are carried out regularly and logged, so staff and children know how to evacuate the building safely in the event of an emergency.

Leadership and Management

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

The registered person is committed to providing a quality service and responds positively to recommendations for improvement. She has produced a clear statement of purpose which provides parents with the relevant information about the setting, so they can make an informed choice. The registered person provides staff and parents with a suitable range of policies, procedures and documentation to support the running of the setting. She regularly reviews them to ensure they reflect current practice and provide staff with clear instructions as to what is required of them. The registered person ensures that children's contracts are completed fully, signed and exchanged with parents/carers prior to the child starting at the setting. She maintains communication with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) informing them of significant events which take place at the setting. We did not review all the recommendations highlighted in the previous inspection and these will be carried over to the next full inspection.

The registered person has undertaken a suitable self-evaluation process and produced a report, identifying actions taken and highlighting areas which require development. The views of parents/carers and children are informally sought, and some views are included as part of the self-evaluation process.

The registered person has taken steps to ensure that all staff employed to work at the setting are appropriate to do so. All staff files contain the information required by regulation to evidence their suitability. The registered person has begun to undertake staff supervisions and appraisals. She leads regular team meetings, where important information is shared with staff members, supported by written notes.

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
22	The registered person does not always ensure that safeguarding concerns have been dealt with appropriately. All concerns must be dealt with appropriately and promptly to ensure that children are safeguarded.	Achieved
28	The registered person has failed to ensure that all required suitability checks on staff employed have been carried out prior to appointment at the setting. The registered person must be satisfied that staff employed have the appropriate skills and are suitable to work with children.	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
25	The registered person failed to identify, assess and minimise risk to children at the setting. Suitable arrangements must be in place to identify and eliminate risks.	Achieved
31	The registered person has failed to keep CIW informed of significant events which could have affected the welfare of the children at the setting. CIW must be informed of any significant events which impact s on the welfare of the children within the appropriate timescales.	Achieved
30	The registered person failed to ensure accurate records of staff members' hours of work are recorded. Accurate records must be maintained to identify which staff have worked with which children at specific times in the day should a safeguarding incident occur.	Achieved
38	The registered person has not ensured that fire drill practices with staff or children have been carried out at regular periods. Adequate fire safety precautions must be in place and followed routinely.	Achieved
16	The registered person has not reviewed or completed a report, regarding the quality of care for their service within the last 16 months. The quality of care report, which is to include views collated from children and their parents/guardians and staff must be written and reviewed, annually The report is to identify areas for improvement and actions taken.	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 13 (Day Care) - Suitable Person	Supervisions and appraisals should be carried out in a timely manner.
Standard 24 - Safety	Risk assessments should be completed fully.

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
Practices regarding observation and assessment of children should be embedded into children's natural play opportunities.

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