



Inspection Report

Bloomfield After School Club

**Bloomfield House Community Centre
Redstone Road
Narberth
SA67 7ES**



Date Inspection Completed

22/07/2021

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About Bloomfield After School Club

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| Type of care provided | Children's Day Care Out of School Care |
| Registered Person | Emma Richards |
| Registered places | 48 |
| Language of the service | English |
| Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection | 16 February 2017 |
| Is this a Flying Start service? | No |
| 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. However, staff speak Welsh with children at times and there is some bilingual labelling on display. |

Summary

Children are very happy and relaxed at this setting. They are engaged in their play and enjoy the activities they do. They form positive bonds with others.

The staff caring for them are kind, calm and nurturing. They put children first and meet the needs of individual children and families. They successfully support children to develop their play and express themselves.

The people who run the setting provide a suitable environment for children's play which includes a spacious outdoor environment that children use regularly.

Leadership and management of the setting is appropriate in most areas. The people who run the setting seek the views of parents, children and staff and set targets to improve the setting.

Well-being

Children are relaxed, content and engaged at this service. They smile, laugh and chat with staff. They are confident that they will be listened to because they have opportunities to share their ideas and staff give them reassurance and help when they need it. For example, children told us that they had made a suggestion of a theme and they had been able to do activities based on this. When a child asked for help cutting a piece of card, a member of staff listened carefully to establish exactly what they wanted.

Most children show consideration and empathy for each other. They help each other, play together nicely and seek support from adults if needed. For example, when two children both wanted to be the goalie in a football game, one child suggested, "*We can both be the goalie*" and a child made suggestions for how their friend could solve a problem when making a rocket. Children told us that they can tell the staff if they are not happy and the staff will solve the problem.

Almost all children are very engaged in their play. Children show enjoyment in their play and persist for appropriate periods of time. For example, during our visit, children happily played with toy cars, dug in mud and played board games together. Children were very proud when showing us the craft activities they had done and showing their skills on a trike. A child told us, "*We do lots of things we like.*" Children have a range of play opportunities available to them, including regular access to outdoor play. They have opportunities to follow their own interests and they are able to choose what they play with.

Care and Development

Staff successfully follow the setting's policies and procedures to keep children safe. They have a good understanding of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children. Staff are fully aware of risk assessments and implement control measures to reduce risks to children, including risks related to Covid 19. During our visit on a very hot day, staff were very aware of the risks of the hot weather. They encouraged children to drink plenty of fluids, ensured they had applied sun cream and encouraged them to play outdoors earlier in the day when it was cooler. All staff have up to date training in safeguarding children, paediatric first aid and food hygiene. They follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands regularly, encouraging children to wash their hands regularly and cleaning surfaces. They are aware of children's allergies and how to keep these children safe.

Staff are very calm and kind in their interactions with children. They show genuine warmth for the children and talk to them in a positive manner. They give regular praise and positive comments to children, such as "*I love your imagination*" and "*Good manners, well done.*" They also respond positively and calmly when there is a rare instance of unwanted behaviour and they are sensitive to the needs and experiences of individual children. There is a designated member of staff who is responsible for behaviour management. Parents told us that staff communicate well with them and show good understanding of the children's and families' needs.

Staff have a good understanding of play principles and put children at the centre of all that they do. Most of the staff have completed playwork training. The person in charge has also completed playwork training and the registered person is working towards this. The staff encourage children to solve problems and to develop their own play. They plan interesting activities for children, including Forest Schools sessions but all staff are very clear that children have a choice as to what they want to engage with. Staff make suggestions to the people who run the setting to improve outcomes for children, based on their observations..

Staff know which children speak Welsh and we observed a member of staff speaking Welsh with some children during snack time. However, we did not hear staff or children using Welsh at other times.

Environment

The people who run the setting provide a suitable environment for children's needs, on the whole. There is a highly suitable outdoor area which is used on a regular basis and allows children quiet spaces to explore as well as a larger open space for more physical activities. They provide the facilities that children need, such as suitable toilets, hand wash basins and an area for food preparation and eating. The people who run the setting are also able to use a sports hall in the building to allow more space for children to engage in physical play during bad weather. They told us that this was not in regular use at the time of our visit due to the limitations of the Coronavirus pandemic but they also told us that, following our visit, this was becoming more freely available. The people who run the setting provide two indoor play rooms for the children to use. The smaller room is referred to as a 'quiet room' and we saw children using this room for quieter activities such as drawing and crafts. However, although the statement of purpose states that children could 'chill out' if they wanted in this area, it has tables and chairs without any soft furnishings or an area for relaxation. The people who run the setting told us these had been removed due to the Coronavirus pandemic but their plan was to replace them by Christmas. The people who run the setting have secured grant funding to improve the flooring of the indoor environment.

The people who run the setting complete detailed risk assessments and ensure that staff are familiar with these. They implement regular safety checks to ensure that the environment is safe for children, such as regular testing of portable electrical appliances and fire safety equipment. Following our visit, the people who run the setting installed a coded lock to improve the security of the premises. The environment is clean.

The people who run the setting provide suitable resources for a range of interests, such as board games, books, small-world play sets, outdoor play equipment and plentiful craft resources. The people who run the setting told us that, following our visit they had acquired a small television for children to use for limited periods at relaxation time, having removed the one they previously had due to safety concerns.

Leadership and Management

The people who run the setting provide appropriate information to parents about the service they provide, through the statement of purpose and policies. We inspected the statement of purpose and a sample of policies and found that they contained mostly relevant information. However, the safeguarding policy did not refer to the current Wales Safeguarding Procedures. There is an effective system in place to ensure that staff are familiar with policies and any changes to these policies.

Record-keeping at the setting is appropriate. Following our visit, the people who run the setting made improvements to the system for recording safeguarding concerns and recording who was looking after the children at all times.

The people who run the setting review the quality of care provided on a regular basis and they set targets for improvement. They seek the views of children, parents and staff as part of their annual review. However, the views of staff are not fully reflected in the quality of care report.

The people who run the setting do not operate a fully effective system of supervision and appraisal. Although they complete appraisals on an annual basis, they had not completed regular, one-to-one supervision meetings with the staff. There is a plan in place for the person in charge to complete regular supervision meetings in the future. The person in charge, although present in the building and a regular visitor to each session, is not based at the setting. There is an appropriate system in place for safe staff recruitment and induction. The registered person confirmed that she ensures there are the required number of staff with relevant qualifications caring for the children at all times. The people who run the setting ensure that staff have regular opportunities for relevant training.

Partnership with parents is appropriate. The people who run the setting and the staff communicate with parents on a regular basis to keep them informed about their children's care. Parents who we spoke with are very happy with the service provided. The people who run the setting had agreed a contract with parents for the care of children who attend the setting after school. However they had a more basic agreement on the hours of care for children who attend the setting during the holidays.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Update the safeguarding policy to reflect current Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

R2 Fully consider staff views as part of the quality of care review process.

R3 Provide a suitably-furnished area in which children can relax.

R4 Agree an appropriate contract, with parents, for the care of all children attending.

R5 Expand the use of Welsh at the setting.

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

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| None | |
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Areas where priority action is required

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| None | |
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Areas where improvement is required

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| The registered person does not ensure that staff have regular supervision meetings. | Regulation 29 (3) (a) |
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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