



Inspection Report

Princess Road ASC

**Warehouse Building
Back Cadwgan Road
6 Princess Road
Old Colwyn
LL29 9PS**



Date Inspection Completed

23/09/2021

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About Princess Road ASC

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Provider	Princess Road After School Club Ltd.
Registered places	70
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	07/06/2018
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. However, basic Welsh words and phrases are used.

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic, therefore we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are happy and enjoy themselves at this setting because they are respected and busy with a range of activities. They are able to make choices and decisions and their interests are valued. Children feel safe, are learning to be independent and interact well.

Capable staff care for the children well and give their safety high priority. They manage children's behaviour kindly, fairly and in a way children understand. They are experienced and provide interesting activities to help children develop well.

The environment is safe and set out with plenty of activities and areas of play and learning to develop children's skills. The indoor and outdoor spaces are suitable for children. There are plenty of toys and games, which are in good condition, and assist with children's development.

People who run the setting are knowledgeable about current childcare practice and this ensures a good level of care for children. They make improvements to benefit children and their families. They support a team of committed staff. There are successful and strong partnerships with parents, and the local community, which helps children feel settled and their families supported.

Well-being

Children have a strong voice and are able to influence their care. They make choices and decisions and their interests are valued, for example, children use a suggestion box for recommending new toys or games. They can also choose from a range of activities and choose to play outside.

Children are settled and form strong bonds with staff because the same staff care for them. Children happily approach staff for help and informal chats. Parents told us their children greatly enjoy attending the setting and happily come in. Children are very confident and resilient, for instance, when a child fell over on the yard, they got straight back up and continued to play happily. Children have a sense of belonging as there is personal space for their coats and bags and their creations are on display, which also boosts their self-esteem.

Children interact well with each other and it was a delight to hear them playing imaginatively together. They co-operate well with adults. For example, when asked to wash hands before their snack. Children share and are making friends, appropriate to their stages of development.

Children are interested and engaged in their play. We observed children very immersed in activities such as playing outside on ride on toys, playing a fishing game, and using a large timber obstacle course. Children explore the environment freely; inside they played with playdough and were excited to use the soft play area.

Children have opportunities to do things for themselves. They are encouraged and supported to do things themselves, such as going to the toilet and washing their hands. Children can take risks, such as balancing and traversing on the wooden timber trail with staff support.

Care and Development

Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy successfully. They implement effective policies and procedures, and have reviewed the setting and care in line with guidance related to the Covid 19 pandemic. All staff have up-to-date training in child protection, and first aid and they provide opportunities for children to participate in regular periods of exercise outdoors. Staff are able to talk confidently about safeguarding and the correct procedures to follow should they be concerned about a child. Staff follow effective cleaning routines and they wipe tables between activities. They provide healthy snacks, such as a wide range of breads and fruit. The service has gained a high rating for safe food preparation from the local Environmental Health department.

Staff are very engaged in their interactions with children. They support children to manage their behaviour using positive methods such as suggesting an alternative activity if there is a conflict. Staff are consistent when giving positive praise to children, for example for sharing or scoring a goal. Staff are good role models as they are polite and make time to talk with children.

Staff work very well together to meet children's needs effectively, for example, they know about children's allergies and make sure they avoid relevant foods. Staff know the children's skills and preferences well and plan activities to advance development and fit in with children's interests. Plans are in place for adult led activities such as making friendship bracelets, cutting and sticking for displays and quizzes. Parents told us their children enjoy the activities provided and they make good progress.

Environment

The environment is secure, clean and well maintained, which provides a safe and comfortable place for children to relax and learn. People who run the setting are developing a good environment to enhance children's experiences. They have identified risks and taken steps to minimise or eliminate them, for example, outer doors and gates are locked. Regular and recorded fire drills evidence that staff and children know how to safely evacuate the premises in an emergency.

People who run the setting ensure a suitable environment and provide a variety of child centred spaces where children can play and explore. These include two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. The outdoor area, includes a yard with a blue surface and a timber trail for physical play. The spaces are used well with children having opportunities to move from one activity to the next. The various play and learning areas are resourced well, for example, there are sufficient craft resources, which ensures staff have the equipment to provide interesting activities for children.

The resources, toys and books are clean, in good condition and suitable. There are easily-accessible toilets for children which enables children to use them independently. People who run the setting and staff have put colourful and suitable art work on display. There is suitable furniture for the children, including sofas where they can relax. Children would benefit from additional natural materials to enhance their experiences.

Leadership and Management

People who run the setting are knowledgeable in current childcare practice and this is set out in the Statement of Purpose, which is reader friendly. The document is comprehensive and observations evidenced that the people who run the setting meet the needs of children and their parents. The Registered Person is often present and parents spoke highly of the leaders. Parents told us they are happy with the service and recommend it to others.

People who run the setting effectively evaluate the service, and they take seriously the views of parents, staff and children gathered through the use of surveys, and records of comments made by parents. Strengths and areas for improvement are identified in the Annual Review of the Quality of Care. This has resulted in changing outdoor areas so that they look fresh and inviting for the children, which enhances the opportunities for children. Some plans for improving indoor areas are already completed, reflecting the hands on approach of those who run the setting.

The recruitment of staff is robust. Staff files demonstrated that all the checks are in place to evidence their suitability to work with children including current DBS checks. The staff present during the inspection, who were the regular staff, worked well as a team, each knowing their roles and responsibilities and taking the initiative to guide children appropriately. The outcome is children enjoy care given by relaxed and enthusiastic staff. Parents told us they appreciate seeing the same staff providing continuity for their children, as some have been employed at the setting for many years. They told us staff are approachable, friendly and are like family. Additional courses on fire safety, managing trauma and the Solihull approach have also been completed. This ensures staff have up to date information on how to provide a rich learning environment for the children.

People who run the setting have effective communications with parents which reflect how important they consider partnership with the parents to be. Relationships with parents are positive and contribute to the well-being of children as parents are able to tell staff what their children have particularly enjoyed. Parents told us they have plenty of information including e mails, and staff have been very supportive of families. These practices enable parents / guardians to remain involved with the care of their children. Children benefit from walks to local parks and places of interest helping them to appreciate their community.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1: to consider the use of more natural materials for children to explore and handle.

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	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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Date Published 12/10/2021