



## Inspection Report

**Little Stars Nursery LLP**

**Little Stars Nursery  
Monmouth House  
Mamhilad Park Estate, Mamhilad  
Pontypool  
NP4 0HZ**



**Date Inspection Completed**

30/05/2024

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## About Little Stars Nursery LLP

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Little Stars Nursery LLP
Registered places	65
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 January 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<a href="#"><u>Well-being</u></a>	<b>Excellent</b>
<a href="#"><u>Care and Development</u></a>	<b>Excellent</b>
<a href="#"><u>Environment</u></a>	<b>Excellent</b>
<a href="#"><u>Leadership and Management</u></a>	<b>Excellent</b>

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

## **Summary**

Children are extremely happy and relaxed at the setting because their well-being is a high priority, and their voices are always heard. They have great fun playing with their friends and have a wealth of opportunities to develop independence and follow their interests. The children have developed exceptionally strong bonds with staff and receive extremely warm and responsive care.

Staff are highly professional and committed to their roles and successfully implement policies and procedures to keep children safe and healthy. They are enthusiastic, always interacting positively with children. Staff plan an extensive range of exciting activities led by children's interests and which support children's developmental needs effectively. They keep highly valuable records of children's progress and use this information particularly well to support their individual learning needs.

There are highly effective measures in place to ensure the environment is very safe, secure and well-maintained. Children have access to spacious indoor and outdoor areas which have been thoughtfully developed to provide an outstandingly rich play and learning environment. Resources are plentiful and allow children to develop their overall skills and independence exceptionally well.

Leadership and management of the setting is excellent. The management team are passionate about ensuring they offer a very high standard of care to their children. They have developed exceptionally strong relationships with a range of partners and parents are highly complementary about the care and opportunities their children receive. Policies and procedures are robust and implemented effectively.

Children have a very strong voice in a setting that is child centred. They have many opportunities to make interesting and exciting choices and decisions during the day and their interests are highly valued. For example, children have opportunities to vote for stories they would like and to use smiley face pictures to indicate which activities they enjoy. Babies and younger children choose whether they want to participate in adult led activities or enjoy free play. They move easily between the different areas and confidently select resources of their choice. For example, we saw some younger children chose to use play doh to make caterpillars, whilst others chose to play with the home corner. Pre-school children have tremendous opportunities to choose how they spend their time and can move very freely between the outdoor and indoor environment.

Children are extremely calm, settled, and very much enjoy attending the setting. Their day is filled with plenty of smiles and laughter, and they cope very well with separation from their parents and carers. Children form particularly strong emotional attachments with staff and feel very secure and relaxed in their care. For example, we saw children seek out hugs from staff when needed and eagerly invite them into their play. They approach staff confidently and chat to them throughout the day. Children are very familiar with, and evidently enjoy, the routines of the setting. This gives them a strong sense of security and belonging. For example, we saw how young children eagerly gathered to sit down ready for circle time.

Children form excellent friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They are calm and play exceptionally well alongside each other. We observed children thoroughly enjoying each other's company, chatting, laughing, and smiling together. They had enormous fun playing on the see-saw, whilst others gently offered each other 'cups of tea' as they played tea parties. Children are learning to respect each other and the resources of the setting, learning to share and use equipment appropriately. We saw children being kind and thoughtful and show great self-control and courtesy. For example we saw young children sympathetically help their friends by picking things up that they had dropped.

Children thoroughly enjoy and are very engaged in their play and learning. Every child is busy and active in their play. For example, we saw babies laughing with delight as they joined in with the 'hop hop bunnies' song. Outside, we saw older children running around, laughing and chatting as they played a game they had invented.

Children develop an excellent range of skills as they play and learn. They are given fantastic opportunities to develop their independence throughout their time at the setting. For example, children learn to serve their own food, cut up fruit, and pour their own drinks. Children show great independence when using the toilet and learn many other very beneficial skills, such as being able to sit quietly in a group and listen.

## Care and Development

Excellent

Staff are extremely conscientious and implement policies and procedures to a very high standard to keep children safe and healthy. They have detailed understanding of safeguarding issues, the setting's safeguarding procedures and their responsibilities to keep children safe and report any concerns. Staff have easy access to children's information and have excellent knowledge of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They are very confident in recording accidents, incidents and pre-existing injuries and share this information with parents. There are secure systems in place to monitor pre-existing injury records to look for patterns and trends. Staff act promptly following accidents and incidents to prevent future occurrences. However there is no formal system in place to analyse these records and the resulting actions. There are clear medication procedures and staff follow these to ensure safe administration of medication when needed. Staff ensure that mealtimes are enjoyable, relaxed, sociable and safe and follow robust procedures to manage children's food allergies, individual dietary requirements, and prevent the risk of choking. The setting has a highly effective safe sleep policy and leaders reviewed this during the course of the inspection, making further improvements. Extremely regular access to outdoor play experiences through the day, offers children the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air. We saw staff consistently follow thorough hygiene and cleaning practices as part of the infection control process to help keep children healthy and safe.

Staff are excellent role models and manage interactions superbly. They are very kind, caring and patient, genuinely showing interest and care in all that they do. They encourage children to express their feelings and emotions and are extremely responsive and nurturing, meaning children approach them with great ease. There is a thoughtful, comprehensive behaviour management policy and we saw staff implement this skilfully, using gentle tones, distraction methods and plenty of meaningful praise for children's efforts and achievements.

Staff support children's learning and development extremely well. A strong key worker system is in place and staff have a thorough knowledge of children's individual needs. Staff follow the new curriculum for Wales to plan high quality experiences and evaluate children's enjoyment and engagement in activities to adapt and plan further play opportunities. Regular observations and assessments allow staff to monitor and track children's progress and plan effectively for children's progression. Staff are extremely proactive and work outstandingly with a range of partners and outside professionals to effectively support children with additional learning needs. Staff promote the Welsh language through the use of phrases, words and songs with the children.

**Environment****Excellent**

The setting is very safe and secure. Staff ensure only authorised entry and maintain a log for any visitors attending. Comprehensive risk assessments for all areas and activities at the setting are in place and are effectively followed by staff. Staff complete daily safety checks of the environment and are vigilant about any emerging risks. Routine safety checks and certificates for the building and appliances are in place. Leaders ensure that any maintenance issues are addressed as soon as possible.

The environment is extremely welcoming and child friendly and provides an outstanding space for children to play and learn. The indoor play areas are bright, spacious, and organised in a highly effective manner to stimulate children's curiosity, exploration, and development. The low-level furniture and resources foster children's independence. For example, they confidently access the open shelves and baskets finding what they want with ease. The rooms for the younger children and babies are cosy and inviting and provide areas for relaxation, bottle feeding and cuddling babies as well as play. There are safe, calm facilities for children to sleep and a suitable number of toilets and wash hand basins. There is a great deal of outdoor space, and this has been imaginatively developed to provide tremendous opportunities for children to play and learn in the fresh air. For example, the allotment area incorporates plants and natural world learning opportunities for children. The forest school area provides an exciting area for children to explore, learn and take risks in their play. Younger children have their own very inviting play area, offering them safe opportunities for physical play learning and development outside in the fresh air. The grounds of the estate where the setting is located are attractive and staff make good use of these grounds, taking children for local walks.

The setting contains very high-quality furniture. Child sized tables and chairs, and low-level coat pegs enable children to access activities or their personal belongings easily, furthering their independence. There is a wealth of superb, very high quality, developmentally appropriate resources both indoors and outdoors, providing a rich play and learning environment. These contain a mix of natural and man-made materials. Real life and multicultural items promote children's awareness of equal opportunities and cultural diversity. Resources are clean and in excellent condition.



## Leadership and Management

Excellent

People who run the setting have an exceptionally strong sense of purpose, seeking to promote and sustain excellent outcomes for children. They are passionate about children's wellbeing, and they share this passion with staff, creating a highly motivated and positive team. People who run the setting are highly organised and there is an extensive range of policies and procedures which are regularly reviewed. Written records are kept consistently and effectively and are stored securely.

People who run the setting continually look for ways to improve and develop practice. They are pro-active and take responsibility for keeping up to date with current thinking and best practice standards in the childcare sector. They work with other settings, professionals and organisations to share good practice, ideas, and suggestions and regularly offer support to other settings. They have very well developed and established systems to ensure regular feedback from parents, children and staff to inform their annual quality of care review.

People who run the setting follow robust recruitment processes to ensure there are always enough staff. Checks are carried out to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. There is a clear system in place to ensure that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. Staff are well-qualified and people who run the setting invest significantly in their staff team. All staff receive regular supervisions and annual appraisals and opportunities for further training. Staff we spoke to told us that they feel valued and supported by the management team and love working at the setting. Deployment of the staff across the setting is managed very well and 'floating' staff who work across the setting support the excellent wellbeing for children and babies at key parts of the day.

People who run the setting and staff who work there, have established very strong relationships with parents. Parents spoke extremely highly of the setting and the care their children receive. They told us they receive feedback on their child's progress and always feel confident to approach staff to discuss any difficulties or issues relating to their children. Outstanding links with a range of key professionals are in place and exemplary links with local schools benefit children immensely, particularly in their onward transition to school.

### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	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.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	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

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

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.

<b>National Minimum Standards</b>	
<b>Standard</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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.

<b>Best Practice</b>
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
Formalise the system for monitoring accidents and incidents to look for pattern and trends, and record resulting actions.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
<b>Excellent</b>	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children’s well-being.
<b>Good</b>	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
<b>Adequate</b>	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
<b>Poor</b>	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children’s well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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