



Inspection Report

Nifty Kids Playgroup

**Nifty Kids Playgroup
Cwm Talwg Community Hall
Plas Cleddau
Barry
CF62 7FG**



Date Inspection Completed

15/04/2024

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About Nifty Kids Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Person	Nicola Varney
Registered places	24
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	15 July 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	The service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Adequate
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children are settled and happy to take part in the activities available. They develop close relationships with their peers and the adults caring for them. Children have good opportunities to communicate and make choices about what to play with and where to explore.

Staff follow policies and procedures to promote children's well-being and healthy lifestyles. They supervise children and respond to their needs well. Staff offer them opportunities to explore their interests and they encourage them to be independent as much as possible.

Leaders ensure the environment is sufficiently secure and safe for children. They offer children a suitable choice of good resources that meet their individual needs and stages of development.

Leaders are experienced and are clearly dedicated to providing good quality care. They have made improvements following the last inspection and strive to meet all regulations and National Minimum Standards. They have a good partnership with parents and the local community.

Well-being

Good

Children have good opportunities to make their own choices and decisions. They communicate well and settle easily into the setting. Children move around the environment freely, choosing where they want to play and accessing the resources available to them. Overall, children's wishes are acted upon. They follow their own interests and ask for additional resources. For example, we heard a child ask for three more dolls and their request was met.

Children are confident and happy. They settle well and are relaxed in the environment and explore the play space freely. They form positive relationships with each other and staff. Children sat with their friends at snack times and their own art work is displayed, promoting their sense of belonging. Children are familiar with the setting's daily routine. For example, they know where to place their bags and to take their shoes off before entering the play space.

Children interact well for their age and stage of development. In the main, they co-operate well and share resources. Any minor disagreements are easily resolved. They are developing good manners, we heard children say '*please*' and '*thank you*'. Children play with and alongside each other well, including us. For example, two children had a lengthy conversation at snack time and another child included us when role playing with an ice cream cart.

Children freely and happily engage in the activities available. They thoroughly enjoy the indoor physical activities, following movements and giggling with one another. They sit nicely and listen to a story, engaging and responding to questions with confidence. Children successfully count and recognise colours bilingually and enthusiastically take part in the sound identification activity.

Generally, children have some opportunities that support their all-round development. There are sufficient play opportunities for children, which are suitable for their age and stages of development. For example, a book corner, a role play area, table top activities and floor play activities. Children have opportunities to be independent. Most children can do things for themselves, but support is offered if necessary. Many children independently visit the toilet and wash their hands.

Care and Development

Good

Staff work effectively to keep children safe and healthy. They confidently responded to safeguarding scenarios and know what to do if they had any child protection concerns. Staff ensure they keep the environment clean and sanitise surfaces regularly. They have continued to loosely follow the covid safety measures. Staff ensure they wash their hands frequently and encourage children to do the same at appropriate times. They follow suitable nappy change procedures, however, they do not always ensure that children's privacy and dignity is respected when visiting the toilets as the doors are left open. Staff offer fresh fruit and drinks of milk or water; however, parents mostly provide children with lunch boxes. Leaders told us they encourage parents to provide healthy options. They work effectively to keep children safe; frequently moving around the various areas interacting with children or supporting them. They give safety messages and provide children with an explanation, so they understand the instruction. For example, staff ensure the children do not run in the hall to ensure they do not hurt themselves. Staff practised a fire drill during the inspection and all children reacted well. Staff keep clear records relating to accidents and incidents. There are thorough systems in place to record the safe administration of prescribed medication.

Staff have appropriate expectations of children and they implement appropriate behaviour management strategies. Staff regularly praise children and reinforce positive behaviour. They resolve any minor disputes with ease. Interactions are positive, demonstrating warmth and kindness. Staff show a genuine interest in the children's requests and discussions, and they are positive role models to the children. For example, they sit and chat with the children at snack time to support their social skills and sit on the floor engaging with them whilst the children tell them about their holiday.

Staff provide age-appropriate resources and activities for the children. They are aware of children's interests which enables them to set up the space with appropriate toys and activities. For example, they know children like the role play resources. Staff mainly offer free choice for children to follow their own interests. Staff record and have a loose plan in place for children's learning and development and they keep individual achievement files. They are beginning to follow the New Curriculum for Wales. Staff promote basic Welsh words.

Environment**Adequate**

Leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure, and mostly well maintained. The doors are secure and all visitors sign in. There are generic risk assessments in place which staff review and keep up to date. Staff complete daily visual safety and cleaning checks. At present, leaders have risk assessed the outdoor play environment and deem it to be unsuitable for use as it needs to be deep cleaned. Therefore, the outdoor area is currently not in use. However, the external gate remained padlocked during the session which could pose a potential risk in the event of an emergency. Leaders told us that they have not used the park next door due to bad weather. Leaders complete fire drills and suitable records are made. Appropriate electrical and boiler safety checks remain current.

Leaders ensure the internal environment is clean, warm and a suitably child friendly space. The setting runs from within the community centre. Although the setting has sole use of the centre when in operation, other users of the community centre share the space. Therefore, the layout and contents of the room are set up and put away almost daily. Children have sufficient space to play, engage in quiet time and enjoy a separate space for snacks. They access suitable child sized furniture and equipment, such as tables and chairs and a step for the sinks. Children's toilets are easily accessible, which allows for the development of their independence. Staff suitably supervise children to and from the area. There is an adequately sized dedicated outdoor play space for physical play and fresh air, it is sited directly outside the fire exit doors, promoting good free flow opportunities when the area is suitable for use.

Leaders who run the setting provide an adequate choice of good resources for children. Resources are appropriate for the ages of the children attending. Staff ensure a sufficient amount are set up and available daily. For example, role play items, vehicles and garages, jigsaws and books and a slide. However, there was no messy play items, sand or water play available and resources were not rotated from one session to the other at the time of the inspection. Leaders told us that children can ask for toys or equipment and they ensure resources are rotated to help maintain an interesting environment. Leaders display some of the children's own art work and setting information on the walls.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

Leaders engage positively with CIW and are keen to provide a good quality service. They are very organised. There is an up to date Statement of Purpose that provides parents with detailed information on how the setting runs. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and kept up to date. Leaders maintain children's documents and paperwork well and they accurately complete the registers for children and staff. They have valid insurance certificates in place, however, they had not obtained consent to transport children in a vehicle. Following the inspection, leaders confirmed that this had been addressed.

Leaders review their service. They have a system in place to ensure they undertake a formal self-evaluation of the service on at least an annual basis. The Quality of Care report demonstrates they consult with parents, staff, children and relevant external agencies to inform their review. They intend to use this information to set an action plan to support improvements. For example, to improve feedback to parents, continue with staff training, to revamp the setting and purchase new equipment.

Leaders have an appropriate system in place to ensure that suitable staff are employed to work with children. They keep the necessary documentation in staff files and store them securely. However, one staff file was missing two references. Following the inspection, leaders confirmed that two references had now been obtained. Staff hold the required qualifications and have completed core training to include safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene. Staff told us they enjoy working at the setting. They feel supported and approach leaders for help and guidance if needed. Staff supervision and annual appraisals have been introduced following the last inspection to ensure staff have opportunities for personal development and raise any practice issues.

Leaders establish positive relationships with families, the local community and school and with external agencies. Leaders share information with parents about their children in a variety of ways, including verbally and via the blackboard, newsletters and electronic systems. Leaders told us they take children on outings and visit the park next door when the weather permits.

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

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
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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
29	No evidence of staff supervision and RI confirmed that she has not undertaken staff supervisions	Achieved
15 (4) (a)	Statement of purpose was missing information about being reviewed and CIW informed of any changes.	Achieved
28 (2) (b) [ii] Sch2.34(j)	There was no evidence of verification of a staff members identity in their file.	Achieved
16 (2) (a)	There was no quality of care report completed in 2018 and no evidence that children's views were sought.	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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	To ensure that resources and activities to promote children's holistic development are offered at every session.

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)	
To ensure children's privacy is respected when using the toilets.	
To implement the New Curriculum for Wales.	
To ensure that the padlock on the gate in the outdoor play area is unlocked during operation hours.	

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	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.
Good	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.
Adequate	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.
Poor	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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