



Inspection Report

The Children`s Room

**13 St James Gardens
Uplands
Swansea
SA1 6DY**



Date Inspection Completed

02/09/2024

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About The Children`s Room

Type of care provided	Children`s Day Care Full Day Care
Registered places	52
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	6 and 7 June 2024
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is making a significant effort to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture or is working towards being a bilingual service.

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

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

Summary

Children are very happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They form very strong bonds with staff. Children are extremely enthusiastic in their play and learning and have great fun playing with their friends. They have a wealth of choices and opportunities to increase their independence and develop different skills throughout their time at the setting.

Staff successfully implement policies and procedures to keep children safe and healthy. They are enthusiastic, and extremely patient, kind and caring towards each other and the children. They support children's learning and development very well through a range of activities. These are led by the children's interests and developmental needs in line with the child led ethos of the of education for early years children.

The environment is very safe and secure. Leaders have created a setting that is welcoming, child friendly and provides ample space for children to play and learn with a very strong emphasis on the outdoors. An excellent range of toys, equipment, and resources both indoors and outdoors effectively promote children's play and learning.

Leaders are well qualified and experienced, placing children's well-being at the heart of what they do. They are very organised and ensure procedures are in place to support the setting to operate very effectively. Staff consistently maintain daily records and paperwork is up to date and well-organised. There is an established team of staff who work extremely well together, and leaders support them very well.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children make many choices about how they spend their time at the setting. They move easily between the activities, toys and resources and tell staff whether they want to play indoors or out. Children express themselves very confidently, knowing staff listen to their needs and wants and value what they say. For example, they chat extremely happily to staff as they play and learn, eagerly inviting them into their play and animal sorting activity. Children's voices are very strong. Staff know their likes and dislikes very well and use these to plan future activities, which are of interest to them.

Children are extremely settled, confident and enjoy attending the setting. They cope very well with separation from their parents and carers. Children form strong emotional attachments with staff and feel secure and relaxed in their care. For example, children confidently ask them for help and seek out cuddles and hugs. Children are very familiar with and evidently enjoy the routines of the setting. This gives them a sense of security and belonging. For example, children come happily to wash their hands before lunch, and are extremely settled as they calmly choose to move from one activity to another.

Children are beginning to develop very positive, healthy relationships with their friends and staff, in line with their age and stage of development. They play very contentedly alongside each other or together. For example, children smile, laugh and help each other as they share and sort water trays and chat easily together as they eat their lunch. Children are respectful to staff; they follow instructions willingly and take care of equipment and resources.

Children are very enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning, following their own interests with the toys, resources and activities available each day. For example, children laugh with excitement and pleasure as they cut out card to create police officer badges. They concentrate and persevere with activities such as cutting and 'sticking', taking great pride in their artwork. Children thoroughly enjoy circle time; they smile and laugh as they join in enthusiastically with singing.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills. For example, when using the bathroom facilities children are well-supported to be independent as needed. Children enjoy good opportunities to become more independent during mealtimes and to help with clearing up after the meal and snack times as well as moving from one activity to another both in and outdoors.

Care and Development

Excellent

Staff now have an extremely good understanding of safeguarding procedures, receiving regular training both in house, online as well as external courses. Safeguarding is included as an agenda item on staff supervisions and as a result they are confident of the setting's safeguarding policies and reporting procedures. They now clearly understand their own responsibility to report any concerns and were consistent in responses to safeguarding questions and scenarios. Staff have a good understanding of children's allergies and medical conditions. They follow procedures for the administration of prescribed medication and complete medication records thoroughly. Staff record accidents, incidents and pre-existing injuries and share this information with parents and carers. Leaders review this information regularly to look for and address any patterns and trends. Staff undertake fire drills regularly and complete registers to show children's attendance accurately. Leaders have also implemented a lockdown policy and procedure, and practice regular lockdown drills. Staff follow procedures to ensure children sleep safely at the setting. For example, they check sleeping children regularly and they are not left unsupervised in the sleep area. Staff promote health and hygiene effectively. For example, they encourage children to wash their hands before food and follow good hygiene procedures when changing nappies and carrying out personal care. Children bring in their own meals from home and leaders encourage parents and carers to provide healthy meals and snacks. Staff provide snacks for the older nursery children and the snack menus have been developed in line with Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance. Staff ensure children have plenty of access to extremely enriching and enjoyable daily outdoor play and learning experiences, bringing them the benefits of physical exercise, creativity and fresh air.

Staff are excellent role models. They are very kind and patient, genuinely showing interest and care in all that they do. They work extremely hard to ensure children feel valued and enjoy their whole day at the setting, having fun with the children whenever they can. They know children very well and are extremely responsive and nurturing, children approach them with great ease. Staff manage interactions and behaviour skilfully, using gentle tones, clear boundaries, distraction methods and plenty of meaningful praise for children's efforts and achievements.

Staff keep files for children, these are organised and up to date. They regularly carry out observations of children to track developmental progress and plan for their next steps, they record these on an app to share with parents. Staff naturally promote and extend children's learning and development throughout the day. For example, staff talk with children about colours, numbers and shapes as they play with construction toys. Staff use much incidental Welsh through the day. As well as having specific Welsh circle time sessions where children feel proud to be speaking Welsh, whilst wearing their "Rwyn'n siarad Cymraeg" T shirts. Staff are observant and effectively identify signs of emerging additional learning needs. They work well with outside agencies to support these children. They ensure any updates regarding children's medical, or care needs are recorded clearly in their files. They

are also excellent at promoting children's feelings and use charka colour bottles to get children to choose a colour and explain how they are feeling and what their mood is like on a day-to-day basis.

Environment**Excellent**

The environment is very safe and secure. Staff ensure only authorised entry at the setting and maintain a log of any visitors on the app used at the setting. Routine maintenance checks for the building are undertaken. Staff complete daily safety checks of the environment. The enclosed rear garden used by children is safe and secure and provides ample space and a variety of excellent opportunities for children to play, explore and learn. For example, the patio area provides children with space to enjoy ride on toys, while the bushes and trees on the raised section provide additional opportunities for imaginative play, learning and development. They also provide plenty of shade during warm weather. A covered safety surface area has been developed to provide a space for very young children and babies to access outdoor play and learning experiences. Leaders have worked hard to continually improve the outdoor area by investing in a large storage unit, large construction blocks and a pending installation of a children's climbing wall. Leaders have also recently replaced all the large front windows of the nursery as well as recarpeting throughout r to maintain very high standards of health, hygiene and safety.

The indoor environment is extremely welcoming and child friendly and provides ample space for children to play and learn. Base rooms are organised in a very effective manner to stimulate children's curiosity and development. The setting is located within a large house and is organised in a way that this gives it a very calm, relaxed and homely feel. Many toys and activities are at children's height enabling them to freely access what they want to play with. Children benefit from extensive daily use of the well-planned and resourced garden at the rear of the property, and from regular walks to local parks. The environment impacts extremely positively on children's development.

The setting has good quality furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables and chairs, low level toy storage units and coat pegs for children's belongings. Staff ensure toys and equipment are regularly cleaned. They are constantly self-evaluating and investing in renewing and adding more toys and equipment. Recently, they have recently invested in another book corner for the multicultural books on offer, a new dressing up stand and wooden craft centre. In addition, new musical equipment resources and books have been acquired for the coloured strings sessions for early years children in the form of pentatonic rhymes. There are a suitable number of children's toilets and nappy changing facilities available.

Leadership and Management

Good

Leaders at the setting are well-qualified, extremely motivated and experienced. They place a high priority on creating a warm, caring, home from home setting for children. The warmth, energy and commitment within the leadership is shared with staff, giving a consistently positive feel across the setting. The statement of purpose has been updated following inspection to ensure it is clear and accurate, enabling parents to decide if the setting is right for their child. There are a range of policies and procedures in place which are regularly reviewed and are dynamic. There are also strong systems in place for recording, filing and organising paperwork. Leaders ensure the safeguarding policy and Wales Safeguarding Procedures are implemented effectively. Leaders have updated the safeguarding policy to meet requirements. All staff have completed safeguarding training, including leaders who completed group C safeguarding training in July 2024. Further training has also been organised.

Leaders carry out comprehensive self-evaluation and plan for improvements. They obtain feedback from parents, children and staff and reflect on practice to produce a Quality of Care report annually. They fully engage with external partners to improve quality and are completely committed to on-going improvement.

Leaders ensure they complete full staff suitability checks before staff start working at the setting to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. Leaders have created an ethos of excellent team working and as a result staff work extremely well as a team, communicating effectively as they care for children throughout the day. Leaders ensure staff receive regular supervision and annual appraisals. Supervision and staff meeting records evidence working relationships between leaders and staff are strong. A culture of openness and honesty is encouraged. Working relationships between the person in charge and registered person are consistently strong and supportive. There is regular and effective communication evidenced by both formal and informal records.

Leaders and staff seek to establish positive relationships with parents and carers and maintain very good communication. They share information via an app and handover at the door. They regularly update parents on events at the setting and provide opportunities for further discussion if needed. Staff ensure when there are concerns about children's progress or development, they share information and work with parents, carers and professionals to successfully support children.

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 must ensure that staff, leaders and the designated safeguarding lead know who to contact, in all scenarios, if they have concerns about children in their care and ensure that all persons working at the setting know how to correctly and effectively follow and implement the setting's safeguarding policy and procedure at all times.	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.

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.

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

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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