



Childcare Inspection Report on

Sunshine's Pre-School

**Llanfoist Fawr Primary School
School Way
Llanfoist
Abergavenny
NP7 9FD**



Date Inspection Completed

29/01/2020

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Description of the service

Sunshine's Preschool is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for 26 children under 12 years. The preschool provides separate morning and afternoon sessions for different groups of children from two and half to four years of age. The preschool operates from a purpose built playroom on the site of Llanfoist Fawr Primary School. It is a community preschool overseen by a committee of parent volunteers who have nominated a Responsible Individual (RI). The RI is also the supernumerary Person in Charge (PiC) and manages the preschool on a daily basis. This is an English language preschool which includes incidental Welsh in routine activities throughout each session.

Summary

1. Overall assessment

This was a focussed inspection and as a result, we did not look at all areas in depth. Most children are happy and engage positively in a wide range of interesting play and learning opportunities that support and encourage their skills. Their independence is promoted effectively but management of challenging behaviour needs strengthening. Security is robust and play areas are generally safe. However, the supervision of children requires prompt attention to ensure ratios are maintained and there is sufficient oversight of all areas at all times. Necessary operational records and documentation are in place and most contain appropriate information. The leadership and management team are committed to developing the preschool and recognise that systems to monitor quality are not consistent and need embedding.

2. Improvements

Most recommendations raised at the last inspection have been addressed appropriately. The chair in the story area with broken upholstery has been removed. Children have greater independence at mealtimes and the Behaviour Management Policy has been updated. The preschool is now registered with the Information Commissioners Office for the safe storage of personal data. Following the inspection an incident book has been introduced and all accidents are now monitored by management on a monthly basis. Systems to assess younger children's progress and learning are being introduced.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We identified one area of non-compliance at this inspection. Safeguarding and promotion of welfare, Regulation 20. A non-compliance notice has not been issued on this occasion. This is because training was provided to staff to help increase the supervision of children and ensure ratios are maintained. This will be assessed at the next inspection.

We identified a number of recommendations to help improve outcomes for children. These included, key person, Statement of Purpose, monitoring systems,

communication with parents and management of behaviour. These are referred to in the main body of the report and outlined in more detail in section 5.

1. Well-being

Summary

Children are confident communicators and express their views and ideas freely. Many children interact appropriately, although younger children are not always supported to manage their behaviour. Children develop their independence well during play and daily routines and their interests are valued and used to inform activity planning.

Our findings

Children have a strong voice and readily make decisions about their care and play. They frequently influence planning of activities because their interests and ideas are frequently noted. For example, following a story about robots, children expressed a wish to make their own robots. As a result, this has been added onto the activity planning and they are currently collecting recycling materials. Children feel special and a valued member of the preschool. They have individual named drawers for their pictures and personal items, named coat pegs and their artwork is displayed on the walls. Children's privacy is respected when changing their wet clothes following water play or a toileting accident.

Many children share, take turns and learn about right and wrong. We noted younger children cope well with transitions in routine throughout each session. However, support when they become frustrated and demonstrate repeated challenging behaviour needs to be consistent.

Children develop good independence in their play and personal care. Older children are encouraged to use the toilets and wash their hands and younger children are well supported by staff. At snack time we watched a child help lay the table and children served themselves food they wished to eat. Afterwards we saw children clean their plates into the food recycling bin and put their plates in the bowl. Older children learn to recognise their name. They self-register on arrival by finding their name card and at snack time give this to staff.

Most children progress well and gain a wide range of skills through stimulating activities and play opportunities. An activity to feed the birds in the garden piqued children's interest and many questions, "*What birds will come?*" This was extended further with children joining in a birdwatch. They made binoculars and took these and their bird identification sheets home to investigate with their parents over the weekend. They were keen to share their findings with staff and helped to count and compare the different types of birds seen. We saw children continue their interests, coming inside to get more water explaining "*We are going to paint the chalk off.*" However, other children's play in the water tray was significantly hindered as there was very limited water available. This resulted in some minor squabbles between children, while other children moved away to play elsewhere. Older children are learning Welsh by singing the hand washing song and we heard staff model Welsh regularly throughout the session.

2. Care and Development

Summary

This was a focused inspection and therefore we did not look at Care and Development in detail. This will be looked at during the next inspection. Staff plan a wide range of stimulating play and learning experiences that support and extend children's learning. Although older children's progress is observed and monitored, systems to track younger children's development are in their infancy. Health records are completed most of the time, although information included needs extending. Staff supervise some aspects of children's play but this is not consistent and practice around behaviour management processes need to be consistent and fully embedded.

Our findings

Overall, children's health and safety are promoted adequately but a number of improvements are needed. Many accidents are recorded, most include sufficient details and are signed by parents but copies of these are not provided to parents. Supervision of children during the session was inconsistent meaning staff do not always have sufficient oversight of the children. As a result, children are sometimes left unattended and not all accidents are observed by staff meaning a number of children go home with unexplained injuries.

Generally, staff manage interactions adequately. They model good manners and use praise to recognise children's good behaviour at snack time. Whilst persistent challenging behaviour was not consistently managed resulting in incidents escalating, individual support has since been introduced at key times during the session.

Staff plan and provide a broad range of interesting activities across the six areas of learning. Activity planning clearly identifies the skills children will gain and how activities will be differentiated to meet children's individual needs. It also includes key vocabulary to use in both English and Welsh and child-led planning prompts. For example, learning about how ice and frost is made. Older children's learning journals show staff observe and assess their learning and development and set quality targets for children to achieve. For example, staff assess children's skills in numbers, shapes and basic physical skills and use a visual guide of observations across the six areas of learning to identify any gaps. Although children's assessments and journals are monitored to check children are progressing and accessing all areas, these are not up to date. As a result, gaps in children's learning are not consistently planned for. We also noted that systems to monitor younger children's progress and development were in their infancy.

3. Environment

Summary

This was a focused inspection and therefore we did not look at the environment as part of this inspection. Therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

This was a focused inspection and therefore we did not look at Leadership and Management in depth. This will be looked at during the next inspection. The management and staff team generally work well together and most records and documents to support the preschool operation are in place, although require some updating. Systems to monitor the quality of the service require some improvement to ensure they are robust and inclusive of all parents and staff. Overall, partnerships are sound although better communication with parents, particularly for those of younger children, could be strengthened.

Our findings

The leadership and management team are committed and motivated to provide a quality service for local children and their parents. All necessary operational records are in place, although some could be extended. A review of the most up to date Statement of Purpose provided during the inspection contained some useful information about what the preschool provides. However, there were a number of omissions and CIW have not always been informed when any changes to the Statement of Purpose have occurred.

The RI/PiC is keen to develop the preschool and has suitable systems in place to monitor quality. Most recommendations from the last inspection have been addressed demonstrating their drive and commitment to make appropriate improvements. The last Quality of Care report submitted to CIW in 2017 identified strengths and areas for improvement. Parents and older children took an active part in the process by completing questionnaires, which were then evaluated and an action plan devised. This opportunity was not, however, afforded to the parents of younger children who attend the service. The preschool has been reviewed in the last year and the RI/PiC understands that the report should be forwarded to CIW on completion.

The staff team work with most parents to identify their children's needs. Some parents complete their child's 'All about me', providing staff with some useful information about their child. Comments from parent questionnaires completed in 2019 praise the preschool, "*My child loves going to Sunshine's*" and "*Great activity choices, love the water, jelly, playdough and outside environment.*" However, some parents raised issues around communication and supervision. Parents of older children receive an update about their children's ongoing progress through consultation meetings and progress reports. Nevertheless, systems to share progress information with parents of younger children are yet to be introduced.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Continue to improve behaviour management and the strategies used to manage challenging behaviour so that plans in place are consistently applied and understood by all staff;
- continue to develop the systems to observe, assess and plan for younger children's next steps;
- consider implementing a key person system so that children can build strong attachments with a special person and parents know who they can talk to about their child;
- improve communication with parents about their child's day and ensure all parents are updated about their children's ongoing progress and development;
- review the Statement of Purpose to ensure it meets The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 and National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare 1.2 and ensure this is submitted to CIW when any changes occur, and
- ensure the Quality of Care is submitted annually and all parents are able to contribute their ideas and views.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was an unannounced inspection completed by one inspector over a period of 6 ½ hours covering both a morning and afternoon session. Evidence for this report was gathered using the following methodology:

- Examination of information held by CIW including the last inspection report, Statement of Purpose (SoP) submitted in 2017 and Quality of Care Review report submitted in 2017;
- observation of care routines and snack times;
- observation of children's play and their interactions with staff and their friends;
- discussions with children, the PiC/RI, chair of committee and two parents;
- feedback from a number of parent questionnaires completed in 2019;
- scrutiny of operational records and documents, including policies and procedures, the most recent SoP; registers; activity planning and children's assessments and health and safety records, and
- we carried out a visual inspection of play areas and resources both inside and outside.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

www.careinspectorate.wales

7. About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Responsible Individual	Claire Childs
Person in charge	Claire Childs
Registered maximum number of places	26
Age range of children	2 years to four years
Opening hours	Monday, Thursday and Friday - 9.00 to 12pm Tuesday and Wednesday – 9.00 to 12pm and 12.45 to 2.45pm
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	19 December 2019
Dates of this inspection visit	29 January 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early year's education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. The provider operates in an area where Welsh is not the dominant language. We recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's ' <i>More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care</i> '.
Additional Information:	

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