



Inspection Report

Little Footprints Playgroup

**Whitchurch Primary School
Erw Las
Cardiff
CF14 1NL**



Date Inspection Completed

19/07/2021

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About Little Footprints Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Katherine Morgan
Registered places	20
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	14 June 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh Language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of children who use, or intend to use the service.

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid19 pandemic; therefore, we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are extremely happy, settled and really enjoy their time, having lots of fun with their friends in the playgroup. Children have grown very close relationships with the staff who know them very well and understand their individual likes and dislikes. Children are very confident to speak and share their ideas with staff who encourage and show interest in their views. Children freely choose what they want to play with from a very good selection of interesting activities and resources that helps them develop new skills. Staff give suitable consideration to the safety matters. There is a good range of policies and procedures to support the running of the service which have been recently reviewed and updated. The number of staff caring for children is maintained at a very good level. Staff work closely with parents in making decisions about their child's well-being and keep them very well informed and updated on a daily basis.

Well-being

Children feel very safe, happy and valued at the playgroup. They get along very well with their friends and staff at the setting. They confidently move around the play areas, choosing resources and making decisions about what they want to play with. They are encouraged to express their opinions and frequently approach staff to ask for anything they want. For example, some children were excited to ask staff about the upcoming dance session and overjoyed to run and tell their friends that they will all be dancing soon. The children have opportunities to decide what resources they want including new toys they would like purchased. For example, the trolleys in the kitchen area, and new Peppa Pig toys bought recently for the playgroup were chosen by the children.

Children are highly engaged and interested in the activities on offer at the nursery. This is because there is an emphasis on following the children's lead. This includes ensuring that children's natural curiosity and interests are used to help them learn and develop new skills. For example, children are excited to use the magnifying glasses to look at play bugs and have lots of fun pretending to put 'jumping spiders on the staffs arms or comb their hair with the bug's legs.' They are happy to spend time chatting with each as they build towers from Lego the same height as themselves. Children have a sense of security as they now the routine of the day and calmly tidy up or line up for handwashing with very simple nonverbal cues. For example, when a staff member turned the light switch on and off a couple of times as a signal for tidy up time, the children quietly stopped playing and joined in with clearing away all the resources in readiness for snack time. New routines and changes have been made due to the COVID-19 pandemic and children have adapted these well.

Children develop warm relationships with their friends and staff and are happy to seek reassurance or support when needed. For example, a child who became a little upset at their tower being knocked down, settled very quickly when a staff member invited them to be her helper and carry a basket of toys. Children are extremely polite and enjoy receiving praise and recognition from staff for good manners and being kind and helpful. They behaved very well and the atmosphere is completely relaxed and calm. They wait very patiently for the Helpur Heddiw (Helper of the Day) to serve their snack or call their name at register.

Children's self-help skills are developing very well. They often wash their own hands and put their cups and plates into a 'wash box' when they have finished eating. Most children pour their own drinks and put on shoes and coats. They do this independently with some support from the staff. Children's special books demonstrate that they are getting ample opportunities to practice important skills including language and literacy, numeracy and physical development. Children are gaining confidence in using simple Welsh words and phrases while singing songs or answering simple commands.

Care and Development

Staff follow clear procedures to ensure they meet the health and safety needs of children. They are very confident in recording accidents, incidents and the administration of prescribed medication. Leaders monitor records to ensure they are kept appropriately. Currently, there is no formal system for auditing accidents or incidents for identify patterns or trends. The nominated child protection person has developed a safeguarding policy for the setting. She ensures the policy is kept up to date and is understood by the staff. Most staff have a very good understanding of safeguarding procedures and have up to date safeguarding training. Staff recognise the importance of updating their First Aid training and knowledge and a suitable number of qualified first aid staff are on duty at all times. A small number of staff are due to complete a practical First Aid training course. Staff working with children who require support with individual educational, health or medical needs received additional training to ensure they can meet their needs.

A good range of healthy snacks and drinks are provided. Parents provide packed lunches which the children enjoy eating together with their friends. Staff know the children's individual food preferences and are able to meet the needs of specific dietary requirements. The setting has developed a specific COVID -19 policy, risk assessments and good procedures to protect children during the current pandemic. Good hygiene routines are in place to promote children's health, including encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times. Staff take children's temperatures on entry to the setting and visitors to the setting complete a COVID- 19 doorstep risk assessment.

Staff work together to ensure they have a consistent approach to managing behaviour in line with the setting's behaviour management policy. For example, staff praise children enthusiastically when they play co-operatively. Staff act as good role models and successfully encourage children to play cooperatively. This includes playing group games where the children practice taking turns, waiting patiently and the importance of being fair. For example, during the matching pictures game the staff member skilfully modelled taking a turn and helped children to engage as they waited for their friends to choose their picture. Staff have a suitable understanding of individual children's needs, abilities and backgrounds. This helps them to plan age appropriate activities that will keep the children interested.

Environment

People running the service have developed and follow a suitable set of procedures to ensure the environment is safe for children. The setting is secure and provides adequate space for children to play and learn. Beneficial range of risk assessments are in place to maintain a safe service. Regular fire evacuation drills are also carried out. Staff use a daily safety checklist of the premises in order to identify and where possible eliminate any risks to children's safety. The playgroup is based in a porta cabin on the site of Whitchurch primary school. The manager of the playgroup explained that, due to the age and fabric of the building, an ongoing programme of repairs is required. For example, the ramp leading to the building was replaced in 2019 and plans to upgrade the railing handle are ongoing. Maintenance and safety checks are checked routinely for the building and appliances including portable appliance testing.

The indoor area provides a good range of play opportunities for children to be independent and active. There are a suitable number of children's toilets, which are located in the entrance hall of the playgroup. There is an outdoor play space that children are taken to at set times of the day. This area offers interesting and engaging activities for children to develop their physical skills and imaginative play. For example, some children enjoy playing in the dinosaur and fairy garden while others are busy riding scooters up and down a small incline. Staff said that children had enjoyed the recent science week where they could use the bubble blowers and experiment with a 'lava volcano' in the outdoor area. The manager discussed plans to develop this area further including the addition of a small wooden shed.

Staff provide children with an interesting and varied range of clean, age appropriate resources that are well maintained and stored where children can access them freely. They follow current best practice guidance to protect children from the risk of COVID-19. This includes a combination of regular cleaning toys, resources and surfaces at set times throughout the session.

Leadership and Management

People running the service have a good understanding of current best practice. They have developed a very good range of policies and procedures that set a clear vision for the service. For example: they have a statement of purpose that outlines the details of the care service they offer to parents and children. They have good procedures in place and pay suitable attention to the regulations and national minimum standards to ensure the smooth running of the setting. When areas for improvement are brought to the provider's attention, she welcomes this advice and acts on it without delay. There is an up to date COVID 19 policy in place and procedures have been updated based on current best practice guidance.

People running the service understand the importance of ensuring that mandatory training for staff is completed. For example, training records looked at demonstrated that most staff have completed up to date mandatory training and offered a good choice of additional training to help develop their skills further. We spoke to three members of staff who demonstrated an excellent understanding of the policies and procedures in place for the playgroup. Staff confirm that they feel very well supported by a management team who are available for advice, guidance or support throughout the working day. Recruitment files examined demonstrate that leaders are clear about their responsibility to ensure that staff are recruited safely and have the necessary qualifications and experience required to care for the children.

People running the service have a plan in place to undertake a quality of care review and the required CIW online Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) to help plan for improvement. They work in partnership with parents in order to plan for each child's individual needs and promote good outcomes for children. There is a suitable complaints policy available for parents. There are a number of good communication systems at the setting including regular feedback by text, phone calls, a private social media page and displays outside the setting. We spoke to a parent who was very complimentary about the service. They commented 'Staff are always quick to answer my queries and I know my child is safe and happy there.'

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

- R1. Continue with the programme of repair to the building and outdoor areas including the upgrading of access railings to the premises.
- R2. Audit the accident and incidents for the setting for any trends and patterns.

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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