



# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Marshfield Monkeys**

**Castleton Village Hall  
Marshfield Road  
Marshfield  
CF3 2UW**



## **Date Inspection Completed**

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<b>Ratings</b>	<b>What the ratings mean</b>
<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

## Description of the service

Marshfield Monkeys is a full day care service located in Castleton Village Hall on the outskirts of Cardiff. The service is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for up to 26 children under the age of 12. Natasha Sullivan-Dungey is both the Registered Person (RP) and Person in Charge (PiC) with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the service. It is an English speaking service with a good level of incidental Welsh.

## Summary

Theme	Rating
<a href="#">Well-being</a>	Good
<a href="#">Care and Development</a>	Good
<a href="#">Environment</a>	Good
<a href="#">Leadership and Management</a>	Good

### 1. Overall assessment

Children are happy at the service and benefit from a good variety of age appropriate play and learning activities to promote their all - round development. They are building friendships with their peers and have positive relationships with staff who care for them. Staff are supportive, nurturing and promote children's individual needs effectively. There is an interesting outdoor area and the environment is safe and secure. There are effective systems to facilitate the smooth running of the service and leaders ensure that staff are appropriately qualified and experienced.

### 2. Improvements

Recommendations made at the previous inspection have been actioned in relation to records, care practice and staff supervision.

### 3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no non - compliance issues identified at this inspection.

We have made recommendations under the care and development, environment and leadership themes. Additional information is available in the body of the report with a summary at the end.

# 1. Well-being

**Good**

## Summary

Children are happy and secure. They very much enjoy the time they spend at the service and have positive relationships with their peers and staff. Play and learning experiences are age appropriate and varied, giving children opportunities to learn and develop new skills.

## Our findings

Children are confident to speak out and make their wishes and choices known. They are at ease with staff, and happily engage in informal conversations with them. There are consistent opportunities for them to follow their interests and make individual choices around their play, including free flow into the garden. We saw children approach staff and engage them in nice conversations and it was evident that children were comfortable in their surroundings.

Almost all children are settled and all children who are new to the service receive the support and comfort they need from staff. We noted that when a new starter became a little unsettled, staff were conscious of this and provided the necessary care and reassurance required. This resulted in the child quickly re-joining play activities.

Children interact and play positively with each other. Activities are predominately child led and this means children can choose to play alone or join in the group activities planned by staff. They enjoy the variety of play experiences available and have fun during their time at the service. We heard lots of laughter and saw children chatting happily to each other. On the day of our inspection, there was a scheduled visit to a local community setting. These visits take place regularly, and we saw that children were happy and excited about this trip. We witnessed a good selection of play experiences. These included making a heart shape out of salt dough, table - top activities, as well as role - play and outdoor play.

Children enjoy doing things independently and have consistent opportunities to develop their self-help skills and all-round independence. At snack time, they serve themselves and are encouraged to complete tasks, such as finding their coats and putting on wet weather trousers before going out to play.



## **2. Care and Development**

**Good**

### **Summary**

Staff are nurturing and responsive to children, providing sensitive care so that children feel valued and secure. They understand their responsibilities to keep children safe and recognise the importance of planning for children's individual learning.

### **Our findings**

Staff have a clear understanding of their role in relation to the safeguarding process and a good awareness of general policies and procedures to support their work. Handwashing procedures have improved since the previous inspection, and there is a portable sink with flowing water so that not all children have to use the bathroom facilities to wash their hands. There is an emphasis on healthy food and drinks. The service provides information for parents on nutritional snacks and healthy lunch boxes and children bring a piece of fruit in each day. Staff prepare and share out the fruit at snack time and to encourage independence, children self – serve, although we saw some children take large portions and handle fruit before returning it to the platter.

Staff support and promote children's social behaviour in a positive manner. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy and staff are aware of their responsibility to help children understand expectations in relation to their behaviour. We saw staff deal quietly and calmly with issues and effective use of distraction techniques. For example, staff encouraged children to help tidy up or prepare a snack as a way of deflecting from situations. On another occasion, we heard a member of staff explain gently to a child about risks and explain the importance of fixing a piece of equipment.

There is regular planning for children's individual needs and staff promote children's all round needs to a good standard. Staff plan for a variety of activities and take the age and stage of development of children into account. There is planning for continuous provision for each half term with planned small group activities in the morning and afternoon. Where possible children stay in groups according to their age and activities are adapted to meet the ability of each child. For example, all children completed a creative/malleable activity with younger children focused on painting with brushes, the middle group gluing and sticking and older children on scissor skills. Staff use Welsh effectively to help support children's understanding of the language, including integration of the language during discussions with children, at circle time and as part of the daily routine.





### **3. Environment**

**Good**

#### **Summary**

The premises are safe and secure with detailed risk assessments. The outdoor area offers an interesting space for physical play activities and the internal space is welcoming. Resources and equipment are age appropriate and of a good quality.

#### **Our findings**

The premises are secure and there are appropriate procedures in place to ensure the safety of children who attend the service. There are pin entry doors separating the playroom from other parts of the building where communal activities take place. There is a comprehensive list of risk assessments. There is a system to review these records as required and we saw that all unnecessary risks had been minimised. Leaders ensure that there is sufficient space for children to play in comfort, but we noted that during free flow to the outside, there was a fluctuation in room temperature.

The environment is welcoming, well maintained and is considered from a child's perspective. Internal spaces are attractive, and flooring is in good condition. Staff have considered internal spaces with children in mind, ensuring that many wall displays are at a suitable height for children to see. In addition to this, there are attractive displays of children's artwork giving children a sense of pride in their environment, all well as a sense of belonging. Coat pegs are accessible and at a suitable height for children which affords them a good degree of independence. There is a lovely outdoor area for physical play. The fencing is attractively decorated with plants and bunting hanging from it. There is a raised deck area built around an established tree and this offers children another area of the garden to use. Staff told us that part of the garden has been re-arranged to encourage children to make better use of the play house and mud kitchen and we saw children made very good use of the garden, with many opting to spend most of their time outside.

Children have access to furniture, toys and equipment appropriate and suitable to their needs. Externally, there is a variety of play equipment including a wooden climbing frame to help promote children's balance and co-ordination. Internally, there is appropriately sized furniture so that children can sit in comfort and wet weather clothing is available so children can play outdoors in all weather. Children also have access to sustainable resources and toys and equipment are of a good quality and in sufficient supply.



## 4. Leadership and Management

Good

### Summary

Leaders run the service to a good standard. There are appropriate record keeping systems and a thorough quality assurance process. Partnership with parents is positive and leaders have developed links with the wider community.

### Our findings

Parents and children receive a consistent service that is well run with due regard to regulations and National Minimum Standards. The RP has a clear vision for the service and plans for continuous improvement. There are appropriate service policies, with only a few, such as the safeguarding, uncollected child and complaints requiring minor development. The statement of purpose provides an accurate picture of the service and this means parents are able to make an informed decision about its suitability for their child.

The RP recognises the importance of reviewing and evaluating the quality of the service and has a detailed and comprehensive approach to quality assurance. Parents and children's views are valued and children's opinions are captured in a variety of ways. Feedback from parents and children is considered and is included in the final quality of care report and there are suitable timescales for completion of improvements.

Management of staff is effective. The RP shares information with staff to enable them to fulfil their roles appropriately and staff have clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the service. Staff meetings each half term enable staff to discuss issues and review policies and leaders ensure that staff are appropriately qualified and experienced. We examined one staff file and found that all required documentation was in place, with evidence of pre-employment checks, relevant documentation, together with evidence of induction and supervision. This is important to ensure that staff receive the support they need and to identify individual development and training requirements.

There is effective partnership with parents and links with the wider community, including local schools. The service is involved in fund - raising events for local and national charities and there are established relationships with agencies to ensure best outcomes for children. The quality of care report indicates a high level of parental satisfaction with comments such as *'We would thoroughly recommend monkeys to anyone we know'* and *'I think Monkeys is a fantastic nursery.'*

## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

None

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

We have made three recommendations following the inspection and these are:

- Consider what measures can be taken to maintain room temperature in winter when free flow to the garden is in progress
- monitoring of portion sizes at snack time, as well as children's handling of snacks and
- a review of a small number of policies to ensure that information in them is current and sufficiently detailed

## 6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections:

- One inspector undertook an unannounced visit to the service
- we observed children and the care they received
- we made a visual check of the premises
- we spoke to leaders, staff and children
- we examined a range of service documents and records and
- we considered information held by CIW

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

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)



## 7. About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Natasha Sullivan-Dungey
Person in charge	Natasha Sullivan-Dungey
Registered maximum number of places	26
Age range of children	2 – 7 years 11 months
Opening hours	7.45am to 5.30pm
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	10/05/2017 and 12/05/2017
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	13/02/2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service.
Additional Information:	

Date Published 27/10/2020