



Childcare Inspection Report on

Hopscotch Nursery

**Gilwern Junior & Infant School
New School Road
Gilwern
Abergavenny
NP7 0AY**



Date Inspection Completed

16/09/2019

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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

Description of the service

Hopscotch Day Nursery operates from a demountable building within the grounds of Gilwern Primary School. It has been registered since January 2004 and provides care for a maximum of 24 children between the age of two and a half and 4 years. The service is overseen by a committee who have nominated a registered person to have overall responsibility for the service. A person in charge has been appointed to manage the service on a daily basis. The service operates Monday to Friday, term time only, 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.45pm to 3.00pm. It also offers full day care from 9.00am to 3.00pm. Hopscotch Nursery is registered to provide education and is therefore subject to inspection by ESTYN. The main operating language of the service is English with use of incidental Welsh.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children are happy and settle well at the service. The benefit from a good range of activities that support their all round development and appeal to their interests. Children are cared for by well qualified and experienced staff who know them well and meet their individual needs. The environment is safe and provides good opportunities for children to be physically active. There are on-going plans for the maintenance of the building and garden area. However, toilet facilities do not meet the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare and some areas require redecoration. Leadership of the service is adequate. Paperwork is generally well organised, although staff supervision and appraisal needs to be developed.

2. Improvements

Some of the recommendations from the last inspection have been addressed:

- Children's contracts contain the required information;
- gas and electrical safety certificates were made available;
- children's views are gathered;
- some policies have been updated and
- accurate registers are kept of children's attendance times.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have advised the registered persons that improvements are needed in relation to staff supervision and appraisal Regulation 29(3)(a) in order to fully meet the legal requirements. A notice has not been issued on this occasion, as there was no immediate or significant impact for children using the service. We expect the responsible person to take action to rectify this and it will be followed up at the next inspection.

Good practice recommendations are referred to in the body of the report and summarised towards the end.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children are happy and settled at the service. They have a strong voice and have plenty of opportunities to follow their interests and lead their own learning. They interact well with staff and peers and are beginning to form friendships.

Our findings

Children attending the service have a strong voice. They are confident to communicate because they know they will be listened to and their opinions are valued. For example, during a pond dipping session we heard a child say *"I just caught a pond skater"*. A member of staff replied *"Would you like to come and sit with me and tell me all about it?"* There are plenty of opportunities throughout the day for children to take part in free choice play when they can follow their interests. Children's ideas are gathered at the beginning of topics and recorded in mind maps. They evaluate activities they have taken part in by telling staff 'what we have enjoyed today'.

Children know the routines very well and this helps to develop a sense of security. They are very comfortable with the staff who look after them and happily approach them for attention. A key worker system has been developed so children have consistent care and know who to go to if they are worried or upset. Children know they are valued. They all have an 'all about me' bag containing four of their favourite things from home. These are used by children during circle time to promote conversation about their likes and dislikes.

Children interact very well with staff and peers. They respond very well to requests from staff and understand the expectations of behaviour. We noted that children reminded each other of the rules before going on a walk to the pond. Children play happily together and are beginning to form friendships. During our observations, we noted that many children moved between activities with groups of friends and chatted enthusiastically about what they were doing.

Children enjoy their time at the service because they are able to take part in a very good range of activities that appeal to their interests. Their enjoyment was evident through lots of smiles and laughter. Children sustain interest for an appropriate length of time and persevere to complete activities. We observed children, supervised by staff, working hard to climb to the top of a tractor tyre in the outside play area. They were excited when they reached the top and enjoyed the praise they received from staff.

Children are becoming independent learners. They confidently move between activities and are developing good self help skills such as hand washing and toileting. They put aprons on for messy play with minimal support and hang them up when they have finished. They are able to access resources independently and help to tidy away when they have finished playing with them.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

Children are cared for by a suitably qualified and experience staff. They are conscientious about their role in keeping children safe and healthy. They work in line with service policies and consistently manage behaviour. Staff know the children well and effectively meet individual needs. Safeguarding has a high priority within the service.

Our findings

Staff are fully aware of their role in keeping children safe and healthy. They are familiar with service policies and work in line with these. Staff attend up to date training on safeguarding, food hygiene and paediatric first aid. All staff have completed training on 'Prevent' which is a government initiative to support child care providers to recognise signs of extremism and radicalisation. Accidents and incidents are appropriately recorded. Records showed that these were of the expected nature and gave no cause for concern. Pre-existing injuries are recorded and there is a clear process for referring concerns. Staff undertake regular emergency evacuation drills, ensuring that all children know what to do in the event of an emergency. The service does not provide meals as children bring a packed lunch but snacks are healthy and include fresh fruit and vegetables.

The service has a clear behaviour management policy and staff consistently work in line with this. However, the policy does not include information on how children with challenging behaviour will be supported. Children receive lots of praise for positive behaviour such as sharing and turn taking and they respond very well to this. Expectations and rules are regularly reinforced. For example, children were reminded of the rules for staying safe prior to a walk to the school pond for a pond dipping session. As a result, behaviour at the service is very good.

Staff know the children very well and effectively meet their individual needs. When children start at the setting they complete an 'all about me' which highlights their likes, dislikes and needs. Activities are planned weekly and appeal to the interests of the children. Children are able to take part, safely, in 'risky' play. For example, the service has implemented a woodwork scheme, which enables children to use real tools. Key workers undertake observations of children's progress and identify next steps in learning. Staff make good use of opportunities for language development and promote problem solving skills. For example, when a child was trying to pedal a trike up a ramp, staff asked "*Why do you think it's so hard?*" and "*How do you think you could help them?*" As a result, children worked together to get to the top of the ramp. We heard lots of incidental Welsh being used throughout the session and children join in enthusiastically with Welsh singing. Multiculturalism is promoted by celebrating a good range of festivals from differing cultures.

3. Environment

Adequate

Summary

Children are cared for in a secure environment which is generally clean and welcoming. Risk assessments are in place and daily checks identify potential hazards. Resources are plentiful and there is emphasis on the use of recyclable materials. Toilet facilities do not currently meet the national minimum standards as there is an insufficient number of toilets for the number of children the service is registered for.

Our findings

Leaders ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Visitors are unable to enter the building unless they are admitted by a member of staff. Daily risk assessments are carried out and hazards identified are addressed promptly. Gas and electrical safety tests are carried out in line with requirements. There are good emergency evacuation procedures in place and these are practised regularly.

The environment is generally warm and welcoming with nice displays of children's work, which helps them to develop a sense of belonging. Playrooms provide plenty of space for the number of children cared for. Furniture is of suitable design for the age of the children and promotes independence. Resources are stored at low level, allowing children to access them independently. The outdoor play area is easily accessible and well utilised. The service also makes use of some of the wider school grounds such as the pond and nature garden.

Leaders have an on-going schedule of maintenance for the building and outdoor play area. However, the messy play room is in need of redecoration. We were told by the PiC that an additional wash hand basin is to be installed in the toilets. However, there are currently insufficient toilet facilities for the number of children as the disabled toilet is used by staff. As there are two toilets available for children's use, the PiC and RI agreed to reduce the number of registered places to 20, as regulations require one toilet for every ten children. This was actioned following the inspection.

Indoor and outdoor play areas are well resourced. The outdoor area provides a stimulating environment and offers space for children to be physically active or sit quietly. Children are able to take appropriate risks with activities such as climbing and woodwork. There is a very good art and craft area with plenty of resources including an abundance of recycled materials such as cardboard boxes, egg boxes and cardboard tubes. We noted that children are able to choose what they would like to use without restriction. Water and sand play is available daily and these areas are well used by children. Resources were seen to be clean and of good quality. There are sufficient resources for children to have variety and choice and these appeal to the interests of the children.

4. Leadership and Management

Adequate

Summary

Leadership of the service is adequate to ensure that it runs smoothly on a day to day basis. There are clear policies and procedures which are shared with staff. However, staff do not receive formal supervision and appraisal.

Our findings

Leaders run the service adequately to ensure that it generally meets requirements and minimum standards. A good range of policies are in place. However, these should be regularly reviewed and should include the date of the last review. There is a clear statement of purpose which identifies what the service provides. This allows parents to make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. The RI is involved with the service on a daily basis and communication with the PiC is good. Staff were fully engaged with the inspection process and the RI and PiC were responsive to the recommendations made.

Leaders are committed to improving the service. A quality of care report has been produced and this identifies areas of success and for improvement. However, this does not currently include the views of parents, staff and children. There is an on-going programme of maintenance. The PiC told us that new windows will be fitted, an additional wash hand basin will be installed in the toilets and a grant has been secured to improve the outdoor play space.

Staff told us that they feel well supported by leaders. They regularly update the required training and are able to access good practice training such as Learning Through Woodwork and Promoting Positive Behaviour. However, staff do not receive regular supervision or annual appraisal. This is a requirement of the Child Minding and Day Care Regulations (Wales) 2010. We did not issue a non compliance notice on this occasion as it was not seen to be impacting on children's wellbeing and a supervision and appraisal timetable had been developed by the second visit. The PiC told us that informal staff meetings are held to share information but currently minutes are not kept of these meetings.

The service has developed some good partnerships and makes effective use of the local community. Parents are invited to attend sessions during which they can see their child's work and talk to key workers. The service also holds fund raising events that parents attend with their children. We were told that children go on regular walks to the village as part of their activities. For example, they collected a prescription from the doctors surgery and took it to the chemist. A local story teller visits the service half termly and children have been on trips to the farm. The service has a good relationship with the school and children attend some school assemblies which support their transition.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Ensure that staff receive regular supervision and appraisal;
- reduce the registered number of children to 20;
- ensure that minutes are kept of staff meetings;
- ensure that all policies are reviewed and dated;
- consider redecoration of the messy play room and
- update the behaviour policy with details of how children displaying challenging behaviour are supported.

6. How we undertook this inspection

One inspector undertook an unannounced inspection visit as part of our normal schedule of inspections. An additional announced visit was undertaken. Approximately 11 hours was spent at the nursery. The following methodology was used to gather evidence for this report:

- Observations of care routines and practices;
- discussion with the RI, PiC and practitioners;
- conversation with several children;
- visual inspection of both inside and outside play areas;
- consideration of information held by CIW;
- sight of a range of policies and procedures and
- consideration of information held in staff personnel files and children's developmental files.

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 Full Day Care
Registered Person	Janet Baker
Person in charge	Vicki Trevett
Registered maximum number of places	24
Age range of children	2 ½ to 5 years
Opening hours	Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	12 November 2015
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	13 September 2019 16 September 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years 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. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people/children who use the service. This is because the service is situated in a primarily English speaking area. However, we recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just words' strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care.
Additional Information: None	

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