



Inspection Report

Puffins Pre-School

**Puffins Pre-school
1 Glamorgan Street
Brecon
LD3 7DW**



Date Inspection Completed

25/01/2023

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About Puffins Pre-School

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Claire Jones Susan Francis
Registered places	26
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert] 14 December 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert] No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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

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

Summary

Overall, children are safe, happy and relaxed at this nursery. They have sufficient choices about what they do and how they spend their time. Children interact well and cooperate with each other and staff. They enjoy free play and engage confidently in the activities they choose.

Overall, staff engage appropriately with the children and respond to their needs adequately. They provide a free play environment with some planned activities to help develop children's skills and knowledge. Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy.

The premises are warm, safe and secure. There is limited space due to the layout of the building both inside and outside for children to play. Overall, people who run the setting ensure children have an adequate range of age-appropriate resources.

Overall, people who run the nursery ensure they manage the setting appropriately. They have policies and procedures in place to support the running of the nursery. They develop good relationships with parents. However, there is a lack of robust systems in place to monitor and evaluate the service effectively.

Children have sufficient opportunities to make choices and decisions about their play. They can explore their environment freely and are confident to move about and play as they wish. Older children choose what activities they would like to do with staff and are becoming skilled at contributing their ideas. For example, when choosing to do a building block activity they decide what they want to make, how and what resources to use. Overall, children know staff will respond to their attempts to communicate whether verbal or otherwise, and as a result are becoming confident communicators.

Overall, children are settled in the nursery. Most children arrive happily and are ready to start the day. Children who are a little unsettled receive gentle support and attention from staff with whom they form affectionate bonds. However, routines of the day mean that staff are not always consistent in the way they deal with the children. For example, staff calling over to the children to sit down at mealtimes whilst trying to rock children to sleep. This can impact a little on the well-being of a few children.

Children interact and behave well as is appropriate for their ages and stages of development. They are learning to play together. Older children chat easily with each other and staff and cooperate well. We heard children politely ask each other if they could have a turn. Younger children play happily alongside each other, and staff are on hand to help resolve any minor disagreements.

Most of the time children are engaged in their play and learning and most enjoy a sufficient range of activities and resources. Children develop concentration and many spend extended periods involved in the activities they choose. Children have opportunities to join in with planned activities at times. At present the children have no opportunities to play outdoors.

The range of play opportunities available somewhat promotes children's learning and development. However, this is sometimes limited by a lack of planning for enhanced activities that are available in the environment for children to independently access. Children have some opportunities to develop their self-help skills. For example, they are encouraged to feed themselves, manage their own personal needs and help to tidy up as is appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

Care and Development**Adequate**

The people who run the nursery continue to work well with staff to keep children safe and healthy. They have good policies and procedures in place to support staff to safeguard children, which they review annually. Many staff have training in child protection and information is included in induction training for new staff, although not all knew where to find relevant numbers for child protection agencies should they need them. There are suitable systems in place for managing and recording accidents, incidents and any medication administered. There are sufficient staff with a paediatric first aid qualification. Care plans are in place for children who need them.

Staff follow appropriate hygiene procedures in relation to preparing and serving food and changing nappies. People who run the nursery provide food that is healthy. There is an appropriate system in place to manage allergies and dietary preferences.

Most staff are consistently responsive and interact positively with children, demonstrating warmth and kindness. They know children well and are generally good role models. They use positive behaviour management techniques such as distraction or explanation and give comfort to children who are upset. Staff encourage children to share and take turns and praise this when they see it. For example, saying things such as, 'Good sharing, it's good to share.'

Some staff support children well in their chosen play activities. We saw staff reading stories to children, playing alongside children to model how to use resources and talking to children about their ideas and what they were doing. Staff plan activities around a theme. However, occasionally planning is not age appropriate and does not effectively include enhanced independent play opportunities or outdoor activities. Staff recognise and respect individual needs. Staff have put in place developmental checklists and scrapbook records for each child, however do not always keep these up to date.

Environment**Adequate**

People who run the setting ensure that the environment is suitably safe and secure for children. For example, they ensure external doors are locked, safety gates are in place in the play areas and hallways and outdoor play spaces are securely fenced. People who run the setting ensure they record visitors. The nursery is in need of some general maintenance to ensure its clean, tidy, well maintained and welcoming. People who run the nursery carry out regular maintenance checks and have effective risk assessments for all areas of the premises. Daily safety checks are in place and completed by staff.

People who run the nursery organise the space into three areas which gives dedicated spaces for different age groups. Each area is adequate in space for children to move around and play. People who run the nursery provide an adequate range of resources and equipment. The baby room and two plus room have a large array of toys and resources which children can freely access. The three plus room has a sufficient range of toys and resources. The people who run the nursery told us they have identified a need to develop this provision and are also intending to replace some of the plastic toys with wooden ones and more natural, open-ended resources such as loose parts. The layout of rooms in parts of the building enables children to choose resources independently.

Children don't currently have access to the outdoor space.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

Leaders do not have adequate systems in place to monitor and evaluate outcomes for children. Discussions with the people who run the nursery indicated they were not getting any support from any other agency. There is a lack of internal and external monitoring systems in place.

People who run the setting follow a safe recruitment process to safeguard children and have good systems in place to update suitability checks as required. They ensure new staff have induction training and keep staff up to date with mandatory training such as paediatric first aid and food hygiene when needed. They have an appropriate system for supervision and appraisal to support staff in their roles, however these need to be done more frequently and incorporate staff performance. Staff we spoke to said they enjoy working at the nursery and feel well supported.

The people running the nursery develop good partnerships with parents. We saw very positive feedback comments from parents in the quality-of-care review. People who run the nursery have a contract for each child and collect the information. People who run the nursery and staff keep parents informed about their child's time at nursery in a variety of ways including verbally and through a home diary.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Ensure all staff communicate with the children in their care appropriately.

R2. Ensure all supervisions and appraisals are completed regularly and include practice issues.

R3. Ensure planning is always age appropriate and includes enhanced independent play opportunities and outdoor play, which all children are given regular opportunities to access.

R4. Ensure self-evaluation processes take account of children's day to day experiences to help support progress of identified setting developments.

R5. Ensure the environment is clean and in a good state of repair.

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

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. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
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9	Leaders do not have adequate systems in place to monitor and evaluate outcomes for children. Discussions with the people who run the nursery indicated that they were not getting any support from any other agency. There is a lack of internal and external monitoring systems in place.	New
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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.

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