



Inspection Report

Abersychan Under Fives

**Brynteg Community Hall
Brynteg
Abersychan, Pontypool
NP4 7BG**



Date Inspection Completed

17/10/2021

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About Abersychan Under Fives

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Isobel Yacomen
Registered places	19
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	27 March 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 people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic; therefore, we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are happy and settled. They have excellent opportunities for play and learning within a nurturing setting. They have opportunities to become independent and develop their skills through a range of high quality experiences and play. Children form close bonds with each other and staff.

Staff are professional, well qualified and work well together. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Staff have implemented robust, in-depth Covid-19 policies and procedures. They plan a good variety of activities, which includes the children's interests and input. Staff keep good records of children's progress.

The environment is well resourced both indoors and outdoors. A good range of toys and resources are provided for the children's play. The environment is clean, welcoming and well organised. Staff follow procedures to ensure the environment is safe and suitable, completing risk assessments and daily checks consistently.

The leadership and management of the setting is strong. There is a clear vision for the service and the management team supports staff to do their jobs well. There are suitable policies, procedures and records in place. Parents are very complimentary, and speak highly of staff and the care their children receive.

Well-being

Children are consistently encouraged to make their own decisions about how they spend their time at the service. They are able to choose from a variety of stimulating opportunities. Children's self-expression is encouraged and we observed staff carefully listening to children and showing an interest in their conversations and ideas. We saw lovely interactions between two children and a member of staff in discussion about a broken toy car *'do you think you'll be able to help us fix it with your tools?'*

Children are very content, happy and valued. They develop strong attachments with key workers and they are comfortable to approach familiar people when they need help or reassurance. Children gain a sense of security from being familiar with the routine of the service. They confidently explore the environment freely, know where resources are and how to access them independently.

Children learn to respect each other and share. We saw children enjoying playing with the vehicles together. Children sat happily together and were reminded by staff to use 'please' and 'thank you'. Where children were playing alone, they were content and soon joined by other children and staff in their games. Children seek out staff members for comfort or to celebrate success and bonds of trust are evident.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop new skills with the play and learning experiences provided. The children are curious and engaged learners who value the chance to explore the environment. The emphasis is on free play but there are also structured, adult led activities which children participate in and enjoy.

Children are developing well and have opportunities to become independent. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves. We saw children independently putting their dirty plates and glasses on the trolley at snack time.

Care and Development

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. They are effective in keeping children safe and healthy. There are procedures in place to promote the welfare of children, including a thorough safeguarding policy. Accidents and incidents are recorded and monitored regularly to identify any trends which need to be addressed to support children. Snack is served on a rolling basis where children are encouraged to eat in smaller groups. We saw that this worked well within the session. Acting as good role models, staff encourage children to be kind to each other, to help tidy up, and they sit with them for their snacks to promote their social skills. Children receive a healthy snack which includes fresh fruit and milk or water each session.

Staff are motivated, well qualified and keen to effectively promote children's development. They communicate with each other consistently and are aware of their individual roles in delivering nurturing, responsive care. Children's personal needs are attended to promptly. They are treated with respect and valued as individuals.

Staff plan a good range of interesting activities based on the principles of the Foundation Phase. Key workers monitor children's progress well with regular observations and developmental progress tracking systems. Observations were very in-depth and included the next step for each child's learning. Children's learning and development needs are based upon assessments and targets. Staff are nurturing and consistent in their approach and provide realistic boundaries for children to follow. Staff have undertaken a number of training courses which allows them to support the children confidently. Staff were chosen to be part of the pilot scheme for the All Wales Curriculum reform. They deal with children's interactions sensitively and with exceptional skill. Staff kneel down to the children's level and use calm voices to guide them. The use of the Welsh language is strong throughout the session.

Environment

The environment is safe, secure, and attractive and provides spacious accommodation for children's activities. All visitors are asked to sign in and out of the visitor's book. Staff complete daily safety checks of the indoor and outdoor environments to identify and where possible, eliminate any risks to children's safety. Due to current Covid-19 guidance, parents are not allowed to enter the premises, therefore staff record arrival and departure times of each child. There are rigorous risk assessments in place for all areas of the setting. Records show all regular and routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are completed. During the inspection, the boiler developed a fault and stopped working. Management worked promptly and called out a gas engineer and hired fans to ensure there was no impact on the service provided for children.

The environment is clean and well maintained. It is welcoming and provides light and bright areas for children to explore. There is a wide range of good quality, real life resources, such as pots and pans and crockery. It is a rich environment for play and learning. Children are able to access toys easily, which supports their independence. There are sufficient furniture, toys and resources available for the size of the group of children. Resources are appropriate for the stage of development of the children and promote curiosity and discovery. The outdoor area includes equipment, which is suitable for the age of the children.

The outdoor space is easily accessed and is used regularly throughout the sessions. This area provides children with good opportunities for active play and extends their learning and development. Children highly value their time outside and show great enthusiasm, moving around the well-equipped area with ease.

Leadership and Management

People who run the service are skilled, experienced and manage the service very well. The statement of purpose is detailed and provides parents with the relevant information about the service, so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. There are detailed policies and procedures in place which are reviewed and updated as and when required. The responsible individual provides support to the persons in charge and their teams, to ensure children's needs are well-considered at all times. There are rigorous safeguarding procedures, which promote the welfare of children.

Staff files are of good quality and all relevant checks are made to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. All staff receive regular supervisions and annual appraisals. Staff meetings also promote the sharing of good practice. The annual Quality of Care review is detailed and includes parent, staff and children's feedback. There is a clear system in place to ensure that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) are up to date. There is a process to keep track of mandatory training and there are good opportunities, through the local authority, for staff to receive additional training as required. The responsible individual holds annual training sessions at the beginning of the year for all staff to attend. Staff we spoke to told us that they feel supported and valued at the nursery. They said that the management team are supportive and helpful with any queries they may have.

Staff have established trust and very good communication links with parents. Parents told us that all staff are supportive and they are very happy bringing their children to the service. They said that they felt their children had developed well since attending the setting and thanked staff for their input.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

None.

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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at	N/A

	this inspection	
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