



Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 Child Minding and Day Care (Inspection and Information for Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2010 The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010

Inspection Report

Footsteps Nursery

Llanbradach
Caerphilly
CF83 3LF

Type of Inspection – Focussed
Dates of inspection – 8 & 12 May 2014
Date of publication – 2 June 2014

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Summary

About the service

Footsteps Nursery provides day care for up to forty seven children aged between birth and eight years. This includes a lunchtime wrap around service for nursery aged children and an after school service for older children. The nursery is one of two owned by a husband and wife team who operate both as limited companies. Jackie Sebury is the Responsible Individual for both nurseries. There is a Person in Charge (PiC) of the nursery on a daily basis. English is the main language of the nursery.

What type of inspection was carried out?

This was a scheduled unannounced inspection. It focussed and reports on the Quality of Life theme. Two visits took place in order to enable us (CSSIW) to see both the normal day and the after school care provision. Evidence for this report came from:

- observations of care practices on both visits
- discussions with the RI, deputy manager and staff at inspection
- scrutiny of some child assessment files
- use of the SOFI (Short Observation Framework for Inspection) tool. This enables us to judge the quality of engagement of the children and staff child interactions.

What does the service do well?

The nursery provides a collection and drop off service to a number of local schools. This enables parents to access the extended child care for school aged children to the nursery.

What has improved since the last inspection?

No substantial changes to the service have been made since the last inspection.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of non compliance to report.

The RI was advised to consider the following as points of good practice:

- ensure that the privacy and dignity of the pre-school aged children is ensured when using the toilets
- ensure that staff consider individual needs when planning the programme for their key worker groups

Quality of life

Overall we, CSSIW found that the children were well settled. They played happily together across all age ranges. There were good relationships with carers, particularly in the baby room where the key worker system was seen to work very well. Across the nursery, children were generally engaged in activities of their choosing.

Children and their parents have a voice and are encouraged to speak up. This is because the RI has an established Quality Assurance system in place. There is an annual review of the service where the views of parents and children are sought. This was underway at the time of inspection. A questionnaire is sent out to parents. Staff seek the children's views on a regular basis throughout the year. We observed circle time with the pre-school group. Each child was asked what they did today, who they played with and what they wanted to do tomorrow. In the younger age range staff were advocates for the children using their knowledge of them and observations to assess what children enjoyed most. This not only included the children but placed value on listening to them and reflecting their interests in planning of activities. This system gave children a voice in their care within this nursery.

Children have choice. Within each age group we noted that staff planning activities around a theme took into account the children's interests. We did feel however that staff must consider individual needs when planning the programme for their key worker groups. During the after school club session we noted that some children had lively imaginations and that staff provided them with opportunities to express their imagination. Two children were compiling books – one by illustration and the other with text and illustration. Staff asked appropriate questions and expressed interest. In the toddler group the children's need for physical play on a rainy day was met by staff providing a music and movement session. All the children were seen to know the songs and join in the actions. This both followed their interests and provided opportunities for gross motor skill development. Across all age ranges there were sufficient age appropriate toys for the children to access and play with.

Children have the opportunity to develop skills and experience time out of doors. We saw the after school club play outdoors. There was a wide age range – from three to nine years. The children enjoyed a football game and later with a staff member as child numbers decreased they played 'piggy in the middle' with the soft football. This enabled the children to have exercise and fresh air but also to play co-operatively and as a team.

Children experience appropriate responsive care. We used the SOFI tool to observe one child who had recently moved from the baby to toddler room. The session began with circle time. The child found it difficult to sit still for long and one staff member held him on her knee. The activity was recognition of farm animals from photographs. The child joined in by making noises of the animals identified. After circle time the child moved between a couple of activities settling on the shape sorter. With one to one care from a worker and no longer part of the group we saw the child's concentration span improve. Praise was frequently used by the key worker who demonstrated to the child the shape and each corresponding hole in which to post the shape. Throughout the observation interaction were seen to be good and the child experienced warmth, celebration at his achievements, enabling and collaboration as the key worker demonstrated where the shapes fitted. He responded well to this by acknowledging the interaction with smiles.

Children develop relationships and feel recognised and valued by others. Across all age ranges the key worker system is used. Children were seen to have formed strong attachments and these were acknowledged in the way transition between the age groups was managed. One key worker had moved from the baby to toddler room to coincide with children moving groups. These children had settled quickly as they had a familiar face in the room. This helped the transition to be smooth, relaxed and caused less distress to the children therefore supporting their emotional well being.

Quality of staffing

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life theme. CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Quality of Staffing on this occasion because staffing was not an issue of concern. However this theme will be considered at future inspections.

Quality of leadership and management

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life theme. CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Quality of Leadership and Management on this occasion because the management of the nursery was not an issue of concern. However this theme will be considered at future inspections.

Quality of environment

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life theme. CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Quality of Environment on this occasion because the physical environment was not an issue of concern. However this theme will be considered at future inspections.

How we inspect and report on services We conduct two types of inspection; baseline and focussed. Both consider the experience of people using services.

Baseline inspections assess whether the registration of a service is justified and whether the conditions of registration are appropriate. For most services, we carry out these inspections every three years. Exceptions are registered child minders, out of school care, sessional care, crèches and open access provision, which are every four years.

At these inspections we check whether the service has a clear, effective Statement of Purpose and whether the service delivers on the commitments set out in its Statement of Purpose. In assessing whether registration is justified inspectors check that the service can demonstrate a history of compliance with regulations.

Focussed inspections consider the experience of people using services and we will look at compliance with regulations when poor outcomes for people using services are identified. We carry out these inspections in between baseline inspections. Focussed inspections will always consider the quality of life of people using services and may look at other areas.

Baseline and focussed inspections may be scheduled or carried out in response to concerns.

Inspectors use a variety of methods to gather information during inspections. These may include;

- Talking with people who use services and their representatives
- Talking to staff and the manager
- Looking at documentation
- Observation of staff interactions with people and of the environment
- Comments made within questionnaires returned from people who use services, staff and health and social care professionals

We inspect and report our findings under 'Quality Themes'. Those relevant to each type of service are referred to within our inspection reports.

Further information about what we do can be found in our leaflet 'Improving Care and Social Services in Wales'. You can download this from our website, [Improving Care and Social Services in Wales](#) or ask us to send you a copy by telephoning your local CSSIW regional office.