



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

Brambles Day Nursery

Rogers Lane
Summerhill
Wrexham
LL11 4SG

Type of Inspection – Focused
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Summary

About the service

Brambles Day Nursery was registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales in April 2002, having previously been registered with Wrexham County Council in 1995. The nursery is registered to provide full day care for up to 36 children. It is located in Summerhill on the outskirts of the bustling town of Wrexham.

The service operates all year from 7am until 6pm and the owner Wendy Evans is the registered person for the setting. There is a manager, who together with the owner oversees the running of the nursery.

The nursery has been given a Silver award as part of the Designed to Smile scheme that helps children to learn about how to take care of their teeth. The nursery offers early education and has funded places for children in the term after their third birthday. The nursery has been awarded the highest level, grade 5, from environmental health and is part of the Healthy and Sustainable pre school scheme. The nursery has been awarded a 'Good Practice' and a 'Best Practice' certificate for healthy meals

The language of the service is predominately English although some of the staff and children are bi-lingual and as a result a good level of Welsh is used in the nursery.

What type of inspection was carried out?

This scheduled inspection was unannounced, took place during the school half term holiday and focused on the quality of life and experiences of the older school aged children who had joined in with pre-school.

- A knowledge and history of the setting
- Talking to many of the children
- Direct observation of the activities and experiences of the children on the afternoon of the inspection.
- Talking to the owner, manager and staff members present

What does the service do well?

- The pre-school room has a door directly leading outdoors enabling greater access to learning experiences in a range of different outdoor environments including a sensory garden and a woodland area to extend the learning and development of the children and increase their knowledge of the world around them
- The baby room also has direct access to the outdoor environment
- There is a very consistent staff team with a key worker system and many have worked in the nursery for several years. This ensures continuity of care for the children
- The nursery has been one of the first settings to be involved in the early years infection control audit.
- Leadership and management of the nursery are exceptional. Managers are reported to be very supportive and they listen to ideas and suggestions
- The children grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs that are used in the nursery

kitchen and to make jam, chutney and lavender bags. When the children bake they feel very special by wearing chef hats and aprons.

- The nursery fundraises for many charitable causes with the children
- Staff members have enthusiasm and a sense of outstanding pride in the nursery
- A sensory room with special lights and music provides an excellent range of individual activities and relaxation for all the children including puppets and heuristic play boxes
- There are two rabbits for the children to take care of and take for walks on a lead.

What has improved since the last inspection?

- The nursery has improved several external features such as a new decking area outside the pre-school room to enable the children a greater variety of learning opportunities outdoors when the grassed area may be wet.
- The nursery has a new web site to keep everyone effectively updated with what is happening in the setting.
- The dining room has been completely refurbished with new tables and chairs.
- The bathrooms have been re-tiled with special soft tiles making the areas more comfortable, bright, fresh and clean.
- New equipment has been purchased to provide greater learning experiences for the children.
- The baby room has been changed and re-decoration of several parts of the nursery also ensure a lovely fresh, clean and welcoming environment for the children.
- A new conservatory is planned for the setting to ensure maximum play space for the children in a light bright environment where they can have good views of the outdoors and wild life visitors to the garden.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of significant or urgent non compliance at the inspection.

The following recommendations were discussed with the registered person and manager;

To add hinge guards to the outer doors so that children cannot trap their fingers.

To always use disposable paper towels if children need to dry their hands in the room after an activity.

Quality of life

Overall we (CSSIW) found that Brambles provides a very good quality of life for the children. The children and their families are highly valued and are at the heart of this provision.

Parents are kept informed both verbally and more formally from written records about their child's well being, activities, achievements, progress and how their needs are met on a daily basis. They are also kept well up to date with what is happening in the nursery by means of a web site and an information board outside the main entrance and by photographs of the children and their activities displayed on a computer in the hall. The setting has 'digging days' where staff and parents come together in partnership to develop and maintain the nursery garden.

All were happy and contented because they experience appropriate, responsive care from staff who have an up to date understanding of their individual needs and preferences. It was observed that the staff members knew the children extremely well and were able to discuss the preferences of each. Children feel highly valued as their ideas and interests are noted and taken into account. For example, a child was able to give an impromptu puppet show performance to all his friends. All the children were given the opportunity to choose to play outdoors or inside and were active, positively occupied and stimulated. Children are helped to develop their play with staff observed to be on hand to support them to learn more about the wider world.

The children learn enthusiastically through their play with an excellent range of resources particularly outdoors where good opportunities are provided for different types of experiences in the large garden, woodland and sensory areas. The children were observed to be constantly praised and encouraged meaning that they were happy to try new things and were observed to show wellbeing and contentment as they played, listened to stories and watched an exciting puppet show.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and have nutritious and varied meals that often contain fruit, vegetables and herbs that they have grown themselves in the garden. The nursery is part of a healthy eating initiative and the setting offers nutritious food and drinks. The children are encouraged to look after themselves in a way that promotes their independence, confidence and self esteem.

Warm, secure relationships were apparent during the inspection which meant that all the children were relaxed and had fun. All children were observed to be busy with plenty of good humour and laughter heard and all were clearly enjoying spending time in the nursery with their friends. All children benefit from a stress free, calm, warm and loving environment in Brambles and the staff were observed to give affection, cuddles, praise and lots of smiles that resulted in confident, happy children.

Quality of staffing

Although this inspection focussed on the Quality of Life, parents can be assured that children benefit from a very high standard of care by an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, consistent staff team, several of whom have been working in the nursery for many years. Children experience warmth and attachment and because the nursery operates a key worker system children have a unique sense of belonging to a 'family' and often come back into the nursery when they have left to tell staff about what they have been doing at school. The staff members are well qualified, their certificates of achievement are displayed and there is a programme of training which shows a great commitment to extending knowledge base and making improvements.

All the staff were very professional throughout, patient and kind in their handling of the children that made them feel safe and cared for.

This theme will be considered in more depth during future inspections.

Quality of leadership and management

Although this inspection focussed on the Quality of Life, parents can be assured that the registered person and staff listen to children and their parents and implement suggestions to ensure positive benefits. As a result all the children are very confident and happy in the setting. Children feel highly valued as their ideas and interests are noted and taken into account

This theme will be considered in more depth during future inspections

Quality of environment

Although this inspection focussed on the Quality of Life, parents can be assured that the nursery creates a warm, lovely, learning environment for the children and a welcoming atmosphere for their parents. Both the baby room and the pre-school room have a door leading directly outside enabling greater access to learning experiences in a range of different outdoor environments. The children were observed to play together very happily in the nursery as an exceptionally well equipped service with easily accessible resources meant that they were able to choose freely.

This theme will be considered in more depth during 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.