

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

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Introduction

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 deputy manager, who together with the owner oversees the running of the nursery.

The nursery is 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 language of the service is predominately English although some of the staff and children are bi-lingual.

This scheduled inspection was unannounced and focussed on the quality of life and experiences of the children attending Brambles Day Nursery.

Inspection methods

This report is based upon the following;

- A knowledge and history of the setting

- Written information from the owner/registered person

- The Estyn inspection

- Talking to many of the children

- Direct observation of the activities and experiences of the children on the afternoon of 13th September 2012

- Talking to the owner, deputy manager and staff members present

- Inspection of attendance records.

Summary of inspection findings

What does the service do well?

Has 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

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

Leadership and management of the nursery are very good. Many staff spoke about their job and how they enjoy working in the nursery with the children; managers are 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 wear chef hats and aprons.

The nursery fundraises for many charitable causes and has a commemorative bench for the Royal Jubilee

Staff members have enthusiasm and a sense of outstanding pride in the nursery

Parents are informed of what is happening in the nursery that day by an information board outside the main entrance and by photographs of the children and their activities displayed on a computer in the hall

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

Children have a unique sense of belonging to a 'family' and several came back into nursery after their first day at school to show their uniform and tell staff about what they had been doing.

The nursery has been awarded the highest level, grade 5, from environmental health

The nursery has 'digging days' where staff and parents come together to develop the outdoor area

The nursery are part of the Healthy and Sustainable pre school scheme and they are the first setting in Wrexham to submit their portfolio to be assessed.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The nursery is more involved with the local community. The children have visited the church, the school, a library and residential home for the elderly as well as having a visit from an ice cream van as part of their topic

The further development of the pre-school outdoor area with a door directly leading from the room outside enabling greater access to the outdoor learning experiences

New equipment has been purchased

There are two new rabbits for the children to take care of and take for walks on a lead

The re-decoration of several parts of the nursery including the bathrooms making lovely areas for the children to wash their hands

The nursery has been awarded a 'Good Practice' and a 'Best Practice' certificate for healthy meals.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of significant or urgent non compliance made at the inspection, and no good practice recommendations were made.

The setting has carried out a comprehensive self evaluation and areas of strength and improvement have been identified and a development plan is in place.

Quality of life

Overall we (CSSIW) found that children and their families are highly valued and are at the heart of this nursery. All children benefit from a high standard of care by an enthusiastic, knowledgeable, consistent staff team, many of whom have been working in the nursery for several years, one for 11 years. The children learn happily through play with an excellent range of resources particularly outdoors in the large garden where good opportunities are provided for different types of play in the garden, woodland area and sensory garden.

Children experience warmth, attachment and belonging because the nursery operates a key worker system. They are confident in the setting and comfortable to ask for help because the nursery staff treat them all as individuals with the greatest respect. Parents are kept involved with the learning of their children because they are given verbal and written information about their children on a daily basis.

All the children were observed to experience wellbeing and contentment as they played happily independently, together with friends, with a member of staff or watching the rabbits. The children were kept interested as a very well equipped service with easily accessible resources enabled plenty of free choice.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and have nutritious and varied meals that often contain fruit, vegetables and herbs that the children have grown themselves in the garden.

Warm, loving, secure relationships were apparent during the inspection which meant that all the children were relaxed and had fun while learning. All staff know the children in their care well and understand their needs and preferences, for example, a staff member placing a very young baby in part of the room 'Where he likes to play'. All the staff including students on placement were very professional throughout, patient and kind in their handling of the children that made them feel safe and secure. Children effectively built friendships because the staff were good role models for them showing respect and care for others.

The staff made the most of the sunshine and all the children spent time in the garden. The children chatted happily and excitedly whilst playing and looking at the rabbits. Staff took opportunities to talk to the children about them and the importance of being gentle with the animals, pointing out some of their features.

Children were encouraged to look after themselves by helpful, sensitive staff and were observed to be happy and busy with plenty of laughter heard and all clearly enjoyed being in the nursery. All children benefit from a stress free, calm, warm and loving environment and the staff were observed to give affection, praise and lots of smiles and good relationships were evident.

Quality of staffing

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

Quality of leadership and management

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life. CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Quality of leadership and management on this occasion. However this theme will be considered during future inspections.

Quality of environment

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life. CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Quality of environment on this occasion. However this theme will be considered during future inspections.