



## Inspection Report

**Gofal Plant Mês Bach-Little Acorns Childcare**

**Brongwinau  
Comins Coch  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3BQ**

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This report is also available in Welsh**



**Date Inspection Completed**

13/03/2023

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## About Gofal Plant Mês Bach-Little Acorns Childcare

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Mes Bach-Little Acorns
Registered places	44
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	24 August 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

## **Summary**

This was a focused inspection, and on this occasion, we only considered Well-being, Care and Development, and Leadership and Management. We did not consider the theme Environment.

Children are settled at the setting. They are happy, comfortable, and relaxed. Children have formed bonds of affection with care staff who know them well. Younger children are becoming sensitive to others. They are learning to take turns and share.

Care staff are kind and caring. They provide a nurturing environment and responsive care. Care staff treat all children with dignity and respect. They are positive role models and are consistent in their approach to implementing the setting's behaviour management policy.

People who run the setting have a clear statement of purpose that provides an accurate picture of the setting. They ensure that there are sufficient qualified staff for the range of children cared for. However, the responsible individual is not compliant with all regulations and as a result, we, (Care Inspectorate Wales) have issued a priority action notice. There are four recommendations summarised at the end of the report.

## Well-being

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Children have some opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Their opinions and interests are considered. During snack time children discuss with staff what they would like to do next from a limited selection of activities. For example, play outside, watch video clips, or perform a show. Most children chose to watch some video clips and this activity went on for a long period of time without the children engaging in any other stimulating play-based activities. A few children chose to play with the building blocks and were supported by care staff.

Children are content and express enjoyment. They are beginning to form friendships and are becoming familiar with routines. Children were keen to register themselves by finding their name and placing it on the display board. Children are happy to chat with inspectors to talk about their toys and name different shapes and colours. Children share their excitement in receiving a sticker and explain why they have received it.

Children take part in suitable activities which adequately support their sense of achievement and self-esteem. Children smile when they successfully manage to walk around on the balance snake while others celebrate when they are successful in building a tower that is taller than them. Interactions between children are positive. They are keen to discuss and share ideas. Older children use their imagination while playing with a castle, discussing magic powers, teleportation, and the 'baddy' they needed to defend from. They co-operate, share, and take turns, and are becoming sensitive to the needs of others.

## Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Care staff understand the behaviour management policy and mostly implement positive behaviour management strategies. They set realistic boundaries, intervene appropriately, and use reward stickers to praise positive behaviour. Care staff are positive role models and promote open discussions and sharing. They reinforce rules and expectations in a light-hearted way, helping to find solutions on the children's level.

Care staff are responsive; they listen and respect children's views. Most interactions are positive, showing warmth and kindness. Many of the care staff are sensitive to the needs and experiences of children. For example, consistently asking children "*Have you finished your snack*", "*Would you like help*". However, care staff are not always deployed to suitable roles to best support children's play and learning. Some care staff interactions are dominant and interrupt children's voices. Care staff do not always allow children sufficient time to think and respond to their request.

Many care staff implement appropriate cleaning and hygiene practices. They ensure children wash their hands regularly using liquid soap, warm water and paper towels. They wipe surfaces with anti-bacterial spray before and after serving food. During nappy changing, they use appropriate personal protective equipment. Care staff dispose of nappies appropriately. However, they do not always implement food hygiene procedures consistently. Care staff do not always wear a disposable apron and gloves or consistently encourage handwashing.

Care staff provide an appropriate range of play and learning activities. For example, providing children with colouring tasks related to the video clips they had been watching. However, care staff shared with inspectors that they did not always receive sufficient training to enable them to provide a broad range of play and learning activities. For example, an interactive display board has been installed but care staff do not know how to use this to its full potential. Care staff also confirmed they do not feel they have received sufficient training to confidently implement the principles in the new Curriculum for Wales.

## **Leadership and Management**

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

People who run the setting have an up-to-date, statement of purpose that reflects the service provided and ensures parents can make an informed choice about the setting. They have some knowledge and understanding of their regulatory responsibilities. People who run the setting keep records in relation to children's contracts, permissions, and children's individual needs and is mostly well organised.

The setting's policies for safeguarding children are implemented. Care staff at the setting understand the need to protect children. However, on occasions there are wider safeguarding issues in relation to the safe administration of medication and supporting children with allergies. The people who run the setting do not ensure that care staff have all the correct information needed to safely administer medication. Care staff took instructions from the person in charge without having site of the parents' permission form and administration instruction. The people who run the setting do not ensure that all care staff are fully aware of children's allergies. There is no information visibly displayed in the kitchen to aid care staff to manage children's allergies. We have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address these issues.

People who run the setting undertake the required recruitment checks in line with regulations. They include references for all staff and disclosure and barring checks which are all updated and on record. People who run the setting ensure that care staff are deployed to ensure staffing ratios are met. They have submitted the Self-Assessment of the Service Statement (SASS) and have informed Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) of staff changes. People who run the setting have an understanding of their responsibilities to promote the Welsh language. They are working towards many elements of the Active Offer of the Welsh language. Recommendations from the previous full inspection remain outstanding.

## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1 Continue to consider and implement recommendations from the previous full inspection.

R2 Ensure all staff responsible for the preparation and handling of food are fully aware of and comply with regulations relating to food safety and hygiene.

R3 Ensure staff are deployed to best support children's play and learning.

R4 Ensure the continuing training needs of staff are addressed and provided for on a regular basis.



### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	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.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	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
20	The responsible individual must consistently promote and ensure proper provision for the care, welfare and treatment of all children at all times. Especially those with allergies and requiring prescribed medication.	New

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 this inspection	N/A

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