



Inspection Report

Wick and District Playgroup

**Wick & Monknash Village Hall
Church Street Wick
Cowbridge
CF71 7QE**



Date Inspection Completed

07/12/2022

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About Wick and District Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Provider	Wick and District Playgroup
Registered places	28
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is a post registration inspection.
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are confident, happy and enjoy their time at Wick and District Playgroup. They have a strong sense of belonging and are developing positive relationships and friendships. Children have good choices and make effective decisions about what they want to do.

Staff understand and implement policies and procedures to keep children safe. They are kind towards children, providing positive interactions to ensure children feel valued and happy. Staff are good role models and meet children's needs well.

There are a range of policies and risk assessments in place which are successfully implemented, thus ensuring the environment is clean, safe, and well maintained. The environment, both inside and outside, promotes children's play, learning and development. There is a good range of resources that motivate and promote curiosity.

People running the setting are organised and generally manage the setting well. The newly formed management structure strives to develop the provision and are committed to ongoing improvements. They successfully embed their policies in the running of the setting. There is one area for improvement notice and two recommendations at the end of this report.

Well-being

Good

Children are happy and enjoy their time at Wick and District Playgroup. Children are confident and engaging communicators. They enthusiastically engage with their friends and frequently approach staff to share news and ideas. Children are curious and happy to approach us to ask questions and chat. They were keen to involve us in their play and tasks asking for help to find a suitable leaf for a leaf rubbing activity for example. They have good opportunities to make choices. For example, children chose from a range of activities throughout the course of the session.

Children are settled and cope well with separation. They have formed positive bonds of attachment with staff. Children are enthusiastic on arrival and are excited to explore the new activities on offer. They express enthusiasm and enjoyment, we saw them smile, laugh and positively engage with their friends and staff. Children happily play alongside each other and together. Clear friendships and bonds of affection are forming. For example, one child showed their friend where to find the best worms during outside activities. Children have a strong sense of belonging and are very familiar with routines, at self-registration and when discussing safety rules prior to outside play for example.

Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a good range of interesting opportunities indoors and outdoors that promote their all-round development. We saw children enthusiastically participate in a number of engaging activities and actively join in with welcome activities and songs in Welsh and English during circle time. Children have opportunities to follow their own instincts, ideas, and interests. For example, at one stage, children decided to turn the cosy area into a den and used their initiative to create a satisfying space of their own design.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills. They self-register placing their initialled doll into a doll's house to indicate that they have arrived, and children dress themselves in outdoor protective clothing with varying degrees of support. However, we saw some missed opportunities to further develop independence. Children's coats were hung too high for them to access themselves at home time for instance.

Parents of children who use the setting told us, *"So happy with the care that is provided for my (child). They adore all the staff, talks about them constantly and brings home some incredible crafts and drawings she has made there with her friends."*

Staff understand and implement policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, personal safety, and wellbeing. They record children's attendance and keep suitable staff attendance records. Staff have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities to protect children, confidently answering safeguarding scenario questions. Staff supervise children effectively for example on the walk from playgroup to the local school. They are aware of allergies and appropriately display children's allergy information. Appropriate accident and incident records are in place. Staff implement robust and thorough hygiene practices.

Staff display a good understanding of the behaviour management policy and consistently implement positive behaviour management strategies. They use gentle tones and positive reinforcement with the children. We heard staff saying, *"good idea, that's the way to do it"* and *"that looks great"* to children who had completed making a bird feeder. They promote positive and caring behaviours with children. For example, staff encouraged children to be gentle with a worm they were handling and to find a safe place to put it commenting that the worm had had *"quite an adventure!"* Staff have a strong understanding and knowledge of the children's development, which reflects on how they manage children's behaviour. Staff are consistently responsive; they genuinely listen, chatting and laughing alongside children and respect their views. Interactions are very positive, demonstrating warmth and kindness. They know the children well and have extensive knowledge of their needs.

Staff are committed to providing a good range of play and learning activities. We saw staff supporting and extending children's understanding in their play and learning. For example, when children were deciding where to hang their completed bird feeders they were encouraged to think and problem solve about the positioning, away from potential hazards. As a result, children spent time considering potential hazards such as cats and tried to find *"better branches"*, they were praised by staff for their efforts. This is a real strength of the service. Parents of children who use the setting told us, *"The playgroup always has a large variety of open-ended play activities which are changed and enhanced regularly. The staff always aim to inspire the children. The playgroup has recently started a 'Welly Wednesday' to promote outdoor learning."*

Environment

Good

People who run the setting have comprehensive policies in place and ensure that the environment is suitably safe, secure and well maintained. Staff complete effective and accurate general risk assessments, which are regularly reviewed, and any identified hazards are swiftly addressed. During our visit we identified two areas which had not been adequately assessed, namely the radiators in the hall and kitchen equipment within reach on the work surface. Swift action was taken to address these hazards and the risk assessments were amended to reflect ongoing checks. Staff effectively organise consistent cleaning routines that reflect robust hygiene practices. Their effective infection control practices successfully minimise any risk to children's health and safety.

People who run the setting make certain the environment has good indoor play space for children to move freely. They ensure the environment meets most of the children's needs and enables them to reach their full potential. The main room is spacious, warm and inviting. The indoor areas are interesting and sometimes innovative encouraging imaginative and creative play. People who run the setting make the best use of the outside space available to them. During our visit we accompanied children on a short walk to an outside space located next to the setting. The woodland area was used as an extension to the children's play and learning and with the recent introduction of 'Welly Wednesday' will continue to support children in their creative play, physical development and problem-solving progress.

People who run the setting provide a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources, in sufficient quantity, to ensure children have good variety and choice. They provide stimulating resources for all stages of development and show an understanding of the new curriculum. For example, in providing innovative 'loose parts' play resources which the children enthusiastically explored, and which generated curiosity. Children can access toys and resources easily, as they are set up at low level or within their reach.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

People who run the setting have engaged positively with Care Inspectorate Wales during the course of this inspection. The recently appointed person in charge has made a positive start at the setting and has worked hard to update policies and procedures to meet most regulations and the national minimum standards. People who run the setting have committed to further training to support the development of the person in charge. People who run the setting are committed to ongoing improvements. They have a strong vision that they share effectively and enthusiastically. People who run the setting maintain and share an effective statement of purpose. At the time of inspection, the statement of purpose did not accurately reflect all aspects of the service, for example changes to staffing. People who run the setting have, during the course of the inspection, sent an updated statement of purpose which now contains the required information.

People who run the setting have procedures in place for self-evaluation of the service. They have completed a reflective and purposeful quality of care review which details improvements made and considered targets to drive improvement. They implement safe recruitment procedures to safeguard children. People who run the setting do not carry out regular appraisals and staff supervisions thus not providing support and an opportunity to identify areas of staff development. While no immediate further action is required, it is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

People who run the setting have developed meaningful and positive relationships with parents and carers. There are effective systems in place to keep parents well informed about their child's time at the setting. Parents told us, *"I love looking at the photos on (social media) to see what she has been doing during the week and it's clear to see how much she enjoys it."*

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Develop opportunities to further enhance independence skills.

R2. Ensure that the statement of purpose is updated in a timely manner to reflect any changes to the setting.

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
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29	There was no evidence of one to one staff supervisions. Ensure that regular supervisions are carried out with all members of staff and these are recorded.	New
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Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children’s well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children’s well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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