



## Inspection Report

**The Venture**

**The Venture  
Garner Road  
Wrexham  
LL13 8SF**



**Date Inspection Completed**

30/09/2022

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## About The Venture

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Type of care provided                                      | Children's Day Care<br>Open Access Play Provision   |
| Registered Provider  | The Venture (Wrexham) Ltd   |
| Registered places  | 200   |
| Language of the service                                    | English   |
| Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection                | <a href="#">Manual Insert]</a> 26 June 2017   |
| Is this a Flying Start service?                            | <a href="#">Manual Insert]</a><br>No  |
| 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**

Children are extremely happy as there are excellent opportunities for them to develop skills, socialise, play, and reach their potential. Children are safe and secure as playworkers know them well. Most develop into confident, independent individuals with a strong voice. Their communications are highly valued by those caring for them.

Playworkers are well qualified. They deliver high quality care and support to children and their families. All display a strong contribution to improving children's wellbeing through play and in meeting children's needs effectively. Their dedication and commitment as a team is remarkable.

People running the setting make sure it is safe for everyone. They fully understand the benefits of 'risky play' and use external agencies to evaluate health and safety onsite. The playground is continually changing to meet the needs of the children, and fully supports their independence, and desire to play outdoors. Resources and equipment are of good quality and readily available.

People running the setting commit to continual improvement and have many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. Their contribution to the community is commendable as they relentlessly make a difference to the lives of children and their families. They are routinely compliant and act on recommendations. They proactively seek support and form partnerships to inspire and enthuse playworkers and children. Such partnerships are productive and admirable.

## Well-being

Children are confident and have a significant voice. They offer their views in consultations of children's rights nationally and have brought about change in counselling services in local schools. Children use the creative arts in workshops to communicate their rights openly and to express their feelings. Children know they will be listened to and are actively encouraged to speak up. Their communications are highly valued by those who care for them.

Children interact well with others. They are happy and thrive. They have fun, share resources, are polite when taking turns, and enjoy the company of adults, youths, and children of their own age. Feedback from one child's evaluation of attending The Venture was, "I feel happier, have more friends, more freedom and feel better about myself." Children cooperate; however, they do occasionally have to be reminded to consider the feelings of others. Children develop strong relationships with playworkers which ensure they can feel secure, comfortable, and relaxed. Children have support and can work in partnership with playworkers, who are excellent role models, to change their attitudes and behaviour.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and benefit from a wide range of excellent recreational, physical, and creative activities outdoors. They are easily motivated to explore their own ideas and problem solve. For example, they confidently use large loose parts such as tyres and pallets to build and create dens. They paint structures, explore more risky play such as free running and jumping off structures onto safety mats for the thrill of it. They chill in hammocks up high and take pleasure in campfire activities. Children are proud of their achievements and are keen to tell visitors what they get up to.

Children's independence is considerably well promoted. They do things for themselves and learn a great deal from friends and playworkers. For example, older children support the younger ones when jumping from a height onto mats. Children choose when to enter and leave the playground and take responsibility for their own needs, such as using handwash stations and drinks dispensers. They are shown how to use facilities and equipment and learn from their experiences.

## Care and Development

Playworkers have a very good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Safeguarding children is a priority at this setting. The safeguarding officer is knowledgeable and trained in both adult and child safeguarding, suicide alertness, and mental health first aid. Playworkers reflect on daily practice and keep detailed records. All are qualified in first aid and aware of children's specific medical needs. Accidents and incidents are recorded accurately and in detail and are monitored as part of the daily evaluations. Children have access to suitable snacks and drinks in the snack bar. A child told us the food bags provided by foodbanks during the summer holiday were the best thing about the setting.

All staff are excellent role models and support children's interactions exceptionally well. They successfully promote strong equal relationships and good manners. All staff display warmth and kindness and are respectful. They listen to children when they decide to share their anxieties. For example, a child feared using the outdoor toilet because of a spider, so was able to use the indoor facilities. Playworkers promote behaviour positively and use effective strategies to manage challenging behaviour. They show great skill knowing when to intervene and when to stand back and allow children to work things out for themselves. We saw children listened when challenged for dropping litter or using inappropriate language.

Playworkers know children well and are fully aware of the activities they enjoy and their individual abilities. They motivate and inspire children to create their ideas and offer them support to follow their interests and to find the resources they need. Playworkers reflect on the practices used by children when using tools and intervene if there is any cause for concern. Playworkers talk to children about extending their play. They join in with their play and other activities such as dancing, painting, and gardening, when they see children becoming bored and losing interest in what they are doing.

## Environment

People running the setting make sure it is a safe place for everyone. They bring in external auditors to thoroughly check play equipment, structures, buildings and for fire safety advice. All required safety checks are up to date and there are risk assessments for all areas of the environment, and activities. These are regularly reviewed and discussed with playworkers ensuring they are implemented and playworkers are aware of their responsibility to keep children safe from harm. Playworkers make sure children are supervised appropriately and have systems in place to record when young children leave the playground. Additional playworkers can be called in when needed should the number of children attending increase significantly.

People running the setting encourage children to have control over their environment and opportunities to influence change which in turn supports children's sense of belonging and achievement. Their playground is spacious and has areas for children to play, chill out and explore. The play space is continually changing as children build dens around the fort, its towers, and the pirate ship and create spaces for dancing and listening to music. The multipurpose games area (MUGA) is popular with older children who play ball games, whilst younger children enjoy exploring the pirate ship and fort, running on its high walkways, and climbing the towers. The fire pit and its amphitheatre style seating provide children with an area in which to sit together safely and enjoy the benefits of its warmth, and to cook snacks. There are additional fixed play features such as the cantilever and 'American' swings, zipwire, large see saw, long slide and a bridge between structures. Sand and water are a key component of play, as are the nature and garden areas. People running the setting ensure children can shelter in a variety of areas outdoors and indoors, and use indoor toilet facilities, a sensory room and workshop areas in the main community building and offices.

The environment positively supports children's independence and promotes stimulating play activities. Resources such as tools and building materials are stored away securely in large containers, and their use is closely monitored to ensure children are safe. Children help to plan activities and to source the items they need. The setting has ample large loose parts such as crates, ropes, paint, and planks for children to create dens and build structures. Safety equipment such as crash mats for jumping, gymnastics and free running are available so children can safely seek out thrills in their play. The campfire area has sufficient cooking utensils, and supply of sticks and wood offcuts available to ensure it can be used regularly.

## Leadership and Management

People running the setting provide outstanding well-being outcomes for over 600 active users aged 5 – 17 years. The statement of purpose accurately reflects the facilities available and how the setting is run. Effective policies and procedures guide playworkers and ensure the setting runs smoothly. Administrative support is exceptional, supporting leaders, and allowing a team of dynamic playworkers to commit solely to the care of children. Recommendations made at the previous inspection have been acted upon and the setting remains compliant. Notifications are sent to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) routinely; however, CIW should be notified of all accidents where a child attends hospital, this includes when no injuries are later confirmed.

People who run the setting evaluate the quality of care appropriately, and consistently make worthwhile improvements. They complete an annual quality of care report and other external frameworks, to assess the quality of the play offered. The views of children, playworkers, parents and professionals are always sought and valued. Workshops and focus groups gather children's views on topics such as challenging behaviour. Improvements this year include the refurbishment of play equipment, the kitchen and main gate. A new play team office has been built and will double as a youth club and outdoor art and craft workshop. A girl's group has been started and the site has been opened to home educators. Positive feedback from parents and professionals praises the setting for bringing the community together, and for being inclusive.

People who run the setting do so extremely well, and value and appreciate their consistent staff team. They provide regular training opportunities, supervision meetings and annual appraisals. Staff have pride and passion in their work, with individuals trained in play work, communications, construction project management, art therapy, leadership and management, and community youth work. Recruitment is robust and staff files contain the required information.

There are highly successful partnership arrangements in place with parents, carers, and a variety of professional and advisory umbrella organisations, including the police, educators, and social services. Feedback from 'Children in Wales' said they would be very happy to have more opportunities to work together, whilst Wrexham pupil referral unit thought such partnerships should be available for all schools. Foodbank initiatives such as 'Holiday Hunger' are relied upon during school holidays. The setting is also involved in projects such as 'Play Day Wrexham' with Play Wales and Wrexham Youth & Play Partnership, working with refugees, supporting children's mental health and inclusion. They have many visits from prominent figures in Wales, and celebrities. Such partnerships provide vital support, inspire children, and makes them feel valued. Partnerships with 'Active Wrexham' delivering sports, 'The Princes Trust' and 'The Venture Alternative Learning Group' help in moving disengaged children on. The setting uses social media to communicate with the local and wider community who share an interest in their work.



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

None.

### 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 |
|------------|--|--------|
| 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 |
|------------|---------|--------|
|------------|---------|--------|

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| N/A | No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection | N/A |
|-----|--|-----|

**Date Published 18/12/2022**