



# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Happy Days Sennybridge After School Club**

**Sennybridge Youth Wing  
Sennybridge C. P. School  
Sennybridge  
Brecon  
LD3 8RS**



**Date Inspection Completed**

04/07/2019

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<b>Ratings</b>	<b>What the ratings mean</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	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
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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

## Description of the service

Happy Days was registered in 2015 and provides an out of school service for a maximum of 24 children aged between three and 11 years of age. The registered person is Bethan Jones. The person in charge is Charlene Colwell. The service operates from 3:30pm to 5:45pm, Monday to Friday during school term time. The service is provided predominately through the medium of English with incidental Welsh used.

## Summary

Theme	Rating
<a href="#">Well-being</a>	Excellent
<a href="#">Care and Development</a>	Good
<a href="#">Environment</a>	Excellent
<a href="#">Leadership and Management</a>	Good

### 1. Overall assessment

This is a welcoming child friendly service where children are happy, content and enjoy attending. They are confident, interact well and take part in interesting and stimulating activities. Staff know the children very well and are genuinely interested in the children's views and opinions. Leaders ensure that everyone at the service has a strong voice. Staff are very good role models and create a positive ethos by valuing children's ideas, suggestions and contributions. The environment is spacious giving children a variety of shared facilities along with their own resources. There is ample choice of activities which promotes physical development. The leaders and staff understand and implement the national minimum standards and regulations very well.

### 2. Improvements

- The registered person has achieved a level 5 child care qualification;
- two staff members have achieved their playworker qualification and
- new indoor and outdoor equipment has been purchased which was chosen by the children.

### 3. Requirements and recommendations

- To familiarise with the Welsh Government best practice guidance Food and Nutrition for Child Care.

# 1. Well-being

**Excellent**

## Summary

Children are very happy, motivated and contented, thoroughly enjoying their time at the club. They actively make choices and decisions, are listened to and all attempts at communication are valued. They speak and express themselves confidently and know that their ideas will be listened to. They successfully contribute ideas towards themes and topics. They have a strong voice effectively make decisions and try things out for themselves. Children are independent in the majority of their chosen play. They are familiar with the routines and have excellent relationships with staff. Overall children interact and cooperate well whilst learning through play and enjoyment.

## Our findings

Children speak and express themselves exceptionally well. They said that they are happy within their environment and with their carers. They have a strong and positive voice and interact very well and effectively together. They really enjoy the play opportunities and experiences available expressing their excitement at taking the lead in their chosen play with smiles, laughter and sheer delight.

Children freely make choices and express themselves, whilst being absolutely engrossed in their chosen play. For example, some played with the mud kitchen and utensils, pretending to cook foods made out of mud, sand, twigs and earth. They successfully experimented using tree bark to throw into their mixtures discussing how it would become a thicker consistency and fetched water to stir it all together. They were proud of their end result serving their pretend food to their friends and staff. Other children hunted for bugs and mini beasts, talking about the snails they had found and where to put them in the trees to keep them safe. Others were very contented playing hide and seek and making dens out of the cloth canopies and branches. Whilst indoors children enjoyed drawing and colouring pictures and some relaxed quietly watching a DVD. Without any doubt children were able to freely move around play areas both indoors and outdoors exploring their surroundings to the full.

Children settle quickly into their routine and clearly have a sense of belonging. They arrived very excitedly and could not wait to play with the many toys and resources available to them. Children have developed strong bonds with the staff and we saw that children had plenty of reassurance from them when needed with continuous meaningful interaction. Several of the older children were eager to help during and after snack time, demonstrating high levels of confidence and self esteem.

Children interacted very well with each other and shared toys and cooperated comfortably. They openly discussed their ideas and joined in together happily resulting in much fun and laughter. They enthusiastically included staff in their play. For example, the children placed

mud on their arms then chased the staff members to rub some mud onto them. All children laughed with joy as the staff members joined in their game. Their independence at accessing resources and expressing their interests was celebrated at every given opportunity. They were clearly self-motivated to initiate their own play and problem solve effectively. They took part with enthusiasm, having lots of fun whilst thriving on new experiences.

## **2. Care and Development**

**Good**

### **Summary**

Staff have extremely warm relationships with children. They are calm and positive, managing children's behaviour very well. They know the children in their care as individuals understanding their needs and preferences and meeting their needs effectively.

### **Our findings**

Overall all staff keep children safe and healthy. Staff are clear about the safeguarding procedure to follow if concerned about a child in their care. Staff have attended first aid, child protection, food hygiene and prevent duty training. Staff prioritise any safeguarding matters and understand the policy and procedure should a concern arise. Healthy eating is promoted with children involved in choices of foods, snacks and drinks. Staff planned well balanced menus in advance ensuring that children had a variety of healthy foods including fresh fruit. They followed good hygiene practices. Any child's allergies or special food requirements is noted.

Children told us that they were happy at the club and had lots of friends there. Many said they did not want to go home early but wanted to stay to the end of each session. Staff treated children with respect and were very good role models. This was clearly reciprocated by children as their behaviour was also very good. They were exceptionally polite regularly saying "please" and "thank you". Staff were approachable, handled situations with care and sensitivity and promoted positive behaviour. They regularly praised the children for their good behaviour hence, we saw very little unwanted behaviour as children shared and respected each other and staff.

We saw detailed and well thought out planning of activities and staff engaged children in themes, topics and celebrations of cultural events. Staff placed some toys and/or games on tables for easy access for children to play with. All children were familiar as to where toys and resources were kept and could access a selection of resources easily. Outdoor play was very popular with the children where they also had an age appropriate selection of toys, resources and natural materials to play with.

### **3. Environment**

**Excellent**

#### **Summary**

Leaders ensure that the environment is safe, clean and secure. Leaders effectively identify any risks to children and as far as possible, eliminate or reduce them. The setting is child friendly, welcoming and stimulating. The environment provides a rich place for children's creativity and experimentation through play.

#### **Our findings**

Leaders ensured that the environment is safe and secure at all times. A secure entry system is in place and details of visitors are recorded. Leaders completed comprehensive risk assessments and reviewed them regularly. The registered person had received confirmation that the heating and portable appliances had been tested and were up to date. Leaders practised and completed fire drills on a regular basis and clear records were in place.

There was excellent use of space and facilities to meet the children's needs. Leaders ensure the suitability of the premises effectively. They provide children with an extensive range of toys, equipment, resources and furniture and ample outdoor play opportunities in their natural environment. Leaders provide suitable premises, which are stimulating as the layout promotes different areas for children to experience varied play. Children are kept interested, active and engaged throughout their time there. Challenging play experiences and opportunities kept children happy. For example, they used a woodland area to learn about nature. Another separate play area gave them opportunities to practise their balancing skills on the beams and climbing apparatus. There was a large playing field for free play and games such as football, rugby and running to name but a few. We observed children in a nature garden creating their own play ideas and experimenting with the mud kitchen, logs, water, sand and earth. The resources clearly stimulated children's curiosity, imagination and interests.

Leaders ensured that children were supervised well and understood the difference between acceptable and unacceptable risk for the age group of children they worked with. For example, children climbed on top of tyres and jumped off whilst others were told to take care and think about their actions when wanting to climb trees. Overall the excellent child friendly environment offered children fun and enjoyment and exciting and stimulating play opportunities for all ages and abilities.



## 4. Leadership and Management

Good

### Summary

Leaders have a clear vision for the service. They are committed to monitoring and improving the service. There are effective partnerships in place with parents. Leaders manage the service very well. They comply with the relevant regulations and national minimum standards. They maintain up to date policies, procedures and records.

### Our findings

Leaders had an informative statement of purpose, which was up to date and compliant with the regulations. There was a comprehensive range of policies and procedures, which had been regularly reviewed. Leaders maintained the required records in relation to children's personal information, such as registration forms, accidents, incidents and attendance records. Emergency medical consent from parents had been sought.

The standard of record keeping sampled was good, easily accessed and methodically kept. Leaders have developed a comprehensive self-evaluation system consistently evaluating their service whilst planning for improvement. They are keen to obtain feedback from all service users and staff. This included distributing questionnaires, speaking to children and a social media site. Any suggestions or ideas are acted upon whenever possible.

Leaders are well organised in the management of the service. They follow an effective recruitment process and promote the development of staff. They ensure that staff have opportunities for training and staff confirmed this. Staff files contained all the recruitment information required by regulation. Staff stated that they felt well supported and part of a team. They received regular supervision and an annual appraisal. They also met for open discussions of new ideas and promoting the development of the club. The service used a system that kept staff informed about training opportunities.

Leaders have open and good relationships with the parents. We heard relaxed conversations at pick up time. For example, staff informed parents as to what their child had been involved in during the session and discussed forthcoming events.

We read questionnaires completed by parents, children and staff and saw that their feedback was very positive and complimentary. Children had stated the things they liked and gave suggestions on activities. The quality of care review is underway with a report planned to be written for 2018/2019. Parents we spoke to stated, " my child just does not want to leave here, the staff are excellent, very approachable and helpful", another said "without this club I do not know what we would do, my child has great fun here and looks forward to coming here to play with her friends". Children said that they had lots to do and had fun and enjoyed being there. They said that they like the food and could choose whatever they wanted to play.

## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

**None**

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

- To familiarise with the Welsh Government best practice guidance Food and Nutrition for Child Care.

## 6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector undertook one unannounced visit on 04 July 2019, for a period of approximately three hours and 30 minutes. One inspector provided feedback to the registered person at the time of inspection.

We:

- observed practice and the care provided by staff;
- read some children's, parents' and staff's returned questionnaires;
- spoke to the registered person, person in charge, staff and some children;
- looked at a range of records including the statement of purpose, policies and procedures, staff files, registration forms, contracts completed accident and incident forms.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)

## 7. About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Person	Bethan Jones
Person in charge	Bethan Jones Charlene Colwell
Registered maximum number of places	24
Age range of children	3 to 11 years
Opening hours	3:30pm to 5:45pm Monday to Friday during term time Holiday club – to be arranged
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	17 January 2017
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	04 July 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service. We recommend that the service provider consider Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care'.
Additional Information:	

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