



Inspection Report

1st Steps Day Care

**Moriah House
Bedwellty Road
Aberbargoed
CF81 9BA**



Date Inspection Completed

04/11/2020

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About 1st Steps Day Care

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	1st Steps Day Care Ltd
Registered places	77
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Registration 26 August 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh Language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of children who use, or intend to use the service. We recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh Language in social care.'

Summary

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.

Children are happy and secure at the nursery. They have warm relationships with staff and enjoy the range of resources available to them. Children are familiar with the routines and settle quickly. Staff are attentive and know the children well. Staff are confident in their role and clear policies and procedures support them in this. The environment is clean and welcoming. People who run the nursery manage staff well and staff speak highly of the support they receive. They have established good systems and are committed to on-going improvement.

Well-being

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full, and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Children are confident and resilient. They are adapting well to new routines and changes, which have been implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They move freely around the play areas, making choices and decisions about what they want to play with. They accept that some resources are not available to them but continue to access a range of play and learning opportunities that are fun and stimulating such as art, craft and construction. Children are encouraged to express their opinions and are able to follow their own routines, for example, sleeping when they are tired.

Children feel safe, happy and valued at the setting. They develop warm relationships with other children and staff. Children approach care staff spontaneously to seek reassurance or support and enjoy receiving praise and recognition for their efforts. They play enthusiastically and have fun with their friends. We saw children sharing resources, helping each other with art work and playing a game of hide and seek. They chatted happily and laughed throughout.

Care and Development

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full, and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Staff have a clear understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. They implement robust health and safety routines to ensure children's well-being, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include nursery staff cleaning throughout the day and resources being cleaned and rotated after use. Nursery staff treat children with dignity and respect, using policies and procedures to guide them. Staff are confident about their role in the setting and know where to get support if required. They are clear how to raise safeguarding concerns and know these will be listened to. Staff speak positively about changes at the service, and are committed to on-going improvement.

Staff interact well with children, engaging them in meaningful conversation and supporting their play and learning. We heard lots of praise such as "*Wow, that's brilliant*" and "*You're such a good boy, you're so clever*". Staff know children well and understand their individual needs and preferences. For example, they know that some children take longer to eat.

Environment

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Leadership and Management

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full, and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

People running the nursery work hard to provide good quality childcare. There is a clear vision for the nursery, reflected in the statement of purpose. Comprehensive operational procedures are in place to support the smooth running of the nursery. An appropriate number of suitably qualified and experienced staff are employed to care for the children.

We reviewed a sample of the policies and procedures and found they reflect the setting and current practice. A specific policy and risk assessment relating to the Covid-19 pandemic has been implemented and reviewed regularly following current guidance. These are communicated effectively to staff. Staff confirmed they enjoy working at the nursery and they feel supported, knowing they can approach the people who run the service for help and support if needed. Not all staff have had supervision meetings but the people running the nursery confirmed that procedures are in place and these would take place as soon as possible.

Areas for improvement and action at the previous inspection

None		
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Areas where immediate action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

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