

Chuckles Nursery

A review of the year 2022 – 2023

An annual review of what we have done as required by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

Our Mission Statement

Create activities and experiences to enhance and enrich the lives of the children and families around us.

Vision

To be remembered for making every day an adventure

Well, this year we had every intention of not making any major changes and taking our foot off the pedal a little to enjoy what we had created in 2021-2022. However, as some of you may know by now we are never ones to sit on our laurels and by December 23 plans were already underway to knock down a wall in our upstairs areas to create a whole new space for our older toddlers to enjoy and so that they could start working in a way that better reflects the New Curriculum. We wanted to create calm, welcoming space that

reflects the ethos of the nursery. After making a bigger space, we decorated it in natural colors and new wood effect flooring was laid. Next, we set about creating areas where children could explore different materials, use their imagination, become independent, have quiet moments and play. We added lots of loose parts and resources to help enhance their learning and finally our team added the finishing touches by creating displays, murals and adding soft furnishings. It was a real team effort by all with everyone

chipping in to help with painting, moving furniture and coming up with ideas, and I'm sure you'll agree they have all done a great job!!!



And the improvements continued....

A new larger block and loose parts area was created for the pre-school children, and we immediately saw the impact of what happens when children are given the chance to create and explore independently "Look we made a castle" "We are building big walls" "I need to make a bed"



Continuing with our plans to create spaces where children could explore using more open ended and natural materials, we changed the layout of our younger toddler areas to allow for more imaginative and create play. The staff room floor was replaced and the baby changing area too which finished that off nicely after having a new roof and walls.

Our, stairs and landing had a re-vamp, after years of painting the floors and handrails up the stairs, we had a complete overhaul, the main banister was stripped back to bare wood, the handrails replaced with stainless steel to allow for better cleaning and disinfection and safety flooring put down. Most recently our staff room area was completely redecorated with new furniture and a cozy sofa area added.

Green fingers!

Our children did such a good job growing salad and vegetables last year we allocated a new area this year to expand our current produce to also include, tomatoes, potatoes, herbs, berries, and a bigger range of salad items.

Where we started.....



Starting to take shape.....



Look what's grown!!!!!!



After seeing how well our pre-school had been doing our toddlers decided they wanted to get involved to. With the pre-school teams help they created their own area for digging and growing vegetables next to our bike track. So far have grown tomatoes, lettuce, radishes, blueberries, spring onions and strawberries which the children have very much enjoyed trying as part of their meals and snacks.

Look what we've achieved.....



After a routine inspection in November 22, we continued to hold a 5 rating for our kitchen area, food preparation and hygiene practices.

We then went on to achieve our Healthy Gold Snack Award which recognizes and celebrates our quality snack provision within the nursery. Confirming our commitment to children's health and encouraging good eating habits.

We are very proud to produce healthy well-balanced menus for the children each day. Children have continued to have an input in changing menus e.g., children are asked for their ideas on what to include in new menus with most children able to come up with

meal ideas, staff also observe what different foods the children were or were not eating and menus are changed because of this.



"It is clear that Chuckles Nursery have a collaborative team approach, with the wellbeing of each individual member of staff being of upmost importance. It is wonderful to see how each staff member is included and listened to, instilling trust and commitment" Assessor - Small Workplace Health Award Gold (Re-accreditation)

We made the top 20 once again!

For the 7th year running based on parent reviews on [daynurseries.co.uk](https://www.daynurseries.co.uk) we were listed in the top 20 Nurseries for Wales. A huge thank you to all those parents who leave such lovely reviews validating the hard work done by our team. We really love this award because it comes from you! To read all our lovely reviews or to add your own please visit:

<https://www.daynurseries.co.uk/>



Practice worth sharing!

So, we did just that when we had a visit from Jayne Bryant MS. Jayne is a Welsh Labour politician who represents Newport West in the Senedd. Its hard work keeping a Nursery at the top of its game. So many rules and regulations that are not always best for us as a business, so it's great for us to be able to talk about any issues we may have in the industry. It wasn't long before the children decided that it doesn't matter what you do or what your time constraints may be, there is always time for a story and some photos and Jayne was happy to take up the challenge

and she passed with flying colours.



The day was such a success she then returned with the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Julie Morgan. It was great to be able to talk through how we are trying to work through the

challenges childcare providers are facing to ensure our service is sustainable with the powers that be, and of course show off the wonderful work our team does every day.

We opened our doors to other nursery settings to share good practices and ideas. One Nursery came to see the changes we had made to our pre-school rooms, in particular our block area and were so impressed they went back to their setting and knocked down a wall!! Team members were also as willing as ever to share practices with other practitioners at meetings and training as we all worked our way through the 1st year of implementing the New Curriculum for Non-Maintained Settings.

Training to ensure we stay at the top of our game.

The team are constantly training and learning new skills. Some training is mandatory i.e., Safeguarding, Food Hygiene and Pediatric First Aid as well as a Level 3 qualification which makes them a qualified Child Care Practitioner. The team also invests time in additional training to further their own continuing professional development (CPD) and ensure they are providing the best possible experiences for the children in their care. This year here are some examples of the

extra training the team has completed:

Level 4 and 5 Childcare Qualifications, First Aid at Work (FAAW), Speech & Language, Infection Control, Allergens, Makaton Sign Language, Positive Behavior Management, Manual Handling, Risk Assessments, Play to Learn, Active Tots, Healthy Eating, and Storytime.

This year also saw the introduction of a new Welsh Curriculum for our pre-school Children which meant

that our pre-school team had to do lots of extra training to ensure a smooth implementation. This included training in the following areas: Observations and Assessments, Froebel, Mathematics, Loose Parts, Block Play, In the Moment Planning, and Woodwork. As well as attending networking events and online webinars to share practice and discuss experiences with other practitioners and settings.

Little extras for everyone to enjoy

Red Nose Day we celebrated our families and teams' cultures/backgrounds. We were very grateful for the parents who took time to come in and share their songs and special outfits with us!



Isabelle, Veronika, and Vanessa travelled all the way from Germany as part of an exchange program through Coleg Gwent to see what nurseries and school were like in Wales, and we were lucky enough to be able to provide them with a placement.

The children really enjoyed meeting them and asked lots of questions about where they came from, and they bought us a lovely gift so that the children could see pictures of Germany which the children loved!

St David's Day We built castles out of blocks and built dragons using recycled materials.



"Absolutely outstanding childcare provider. My son loves his days at nursery and all the staff are amazing and go above and beyond. We have been with Chuckles Nursery for almost two years and they have been incredible at every point!" – Day Nurseries Review Nov 2022

Partnership working – Kid's Lingo continue to come and deliver Welsh sessions each week and P.L.A.Y.Active made sure we kept everyone fit with their sports sessions each month.

Events throughout the year organised by our umbrella organisations including Early Years Conferences, Anti-Racism training, New Curriculum forums, Wellbeing webinars and practice worth sharing events were attended by various team members to build their knowledge and given them a chance to network with other professionals. NDNA delivered online Welsh story sessions each month which our pre-school and toddler children loved to watch.

Network meetings facilitated by the Education Advisory Service were attended each term and we welcomed support and guidance about ALN's and Education through visits from Local Authority partners.

Continued involvement in a transition project led by Save the Children meant our deputy manager met each fortnight during the spring and summer term and helped consult on putting together a transition package to help better support parents and arranged visits to Millbrook Primary, Ifor Heal and Monnow Primary.

In April 23 we signed up to the Welsh promise with Clybiau Plant Cymru to help increase the amount of spoken Welsh in the setting and also work towards becoming bilingual.

We have also maintained strong links with our local Flying Start settings.

Important behind the scenes bits

All checks on our Service Level Agreement (SLA) were completed with the Local Authority and we scored all green which means we are meeting all criteria to effectively deliver education sessions within the nursery.

Business plans were developed in January using Padlet which allowed all our team to input ideas and areas for improvement. We then went on to use Padlet for our long-term planning for each group.

Menus continued to be updated termly using the WG healthy eating guidelines. Seasonal produce was used, and recipes adapted for children with allergies/intolerances.

Health and safety checks were carried out including PAT testing, monthly risk assessments, fire checks and termly fire drills. Our downstairs areas also had a complete re-wire this year.

All mandatory training was completed when needed. Monthly 1st Aid/Accident Drills which are real life scenarios (improvising with dolls) ensure everyone remains current and confident about what they would do in the event of a child being hurt or becoming ill. And the team also remain current in regard to safeguarding by 'quizzing' each other using training cards.

All team members were involved in supervision and appraisal meetings throughout the year and action points from these informed their personal development and training plans.

This year we held our very first apprenticeship open day. The aim was to inspire the next generation of childcare practitioners by allowing them to see first-hand what a nursery environment is like and by talking to current apprentices about their experiences.

As a result, we employed 4 new apprentices to join the team. We adapted the current scheme to make it more appealing and give our apprentices a better work/life balance like the rest of our team. Amy has also recently qualified as a childcare assessor and with Lisa already having this qualification, we feel we are in a good position to be able to provide the support and guidance apprentices need to succeed. Watch this space to see how it works!



"Highly recommend this day nursery, have had all my kids there in past years, currently here and also family members.

All care, learning and safeguarding etc. are up to high standards for me. Staff are friendly and helpful. Highly recommend"

Day Nurseries Review – October 2022

Parent Partnerships



There were three parental engagement sessions held this year for sports, Christmas/Winter crafts and Spring/Easter crafts, and all three were very well attended. Our pre-school put together a graduation for parents and children and we celebrated with a rainbow themed party at the end of term. Parent questionnaires were sent to our school leavers and here are some of the responses we had:

"A great teacher is hard to find but impossible to forget! Thank you for going above and beyond for me this year"

"Thank you so much for taking care of both _____ and _____ so well, we could have asked for a better start for them. Your job is not easy by any means, but you all show such kindness and consideration and work tirelessly to give all the children such fantast opportunities."

"_____ has loved every moment of his time with you. He has learnt so much this year and always talks about what he has been doing especially when he gets to help Hannah in the allotment."

Each month we have a question of the month in the newsletter for parents to respond to via email – we are very grateful to parents who take the time to provide us with valuable feedback and positive or negative comments are always gratefully received as they ensure our practices and standards are continually improved and that praise can be given where deserved. We also continued to communicate with parents via the notice board at the entrance to the Nursery, our Family App and the Nursery Facebook page (Chuckles Nursery Newport).

If we could give Chuckles Nursery more than five-star then we would. From the moment we looked around four years ago, we knew that it was perfect - a home from home for our daughter and now our son too. Both have been so happy there. They have also managed both children's food allergies brilliantly. We honestly couldn't speak more highly of the staff and the nursery. Thank you to everyone at Chuckles for all your hard work and dedication. Day Nurseries – October 2022

Team Chuckles!

Investing time in making sure our team feels supported, receives quality training and ensuring everyone has a chance to have a say in what happens in the nursery has always been a priority for us and this year has been no different.

Team building events have included an Abba themed Christmas night where our team certainly had their dancing shoes on, and many of our team still attend "Fit Steps" classes paid for by us each week where they can have fun and get fit.

Amy celebrated 20 years with us this year and we saw some familiar faces return as Hannah, Ellie and Erin joined us to do apprenticeships after attending the nursery as children (yes it definitely made some of us feel very old). Ruby also joined our apprenticeship scheme and Gemma became our new cook in April joining Hannah who had moved to the kitchen in September to take on more responsibility for menus/ordering etc and the role of cooking with children. We said goodbye to Janet and Rachel from our kitchen team and Rosie who after becoming qualified left to follow her dream of working in New Zealand, and we are happy to say she is loving every moment of 😊. Lauren returned to her role in the toddler room after coming back from maternity leave and Lucy left to go on maternity leave in November and welcomed a little boy in late December.

Valuable input from our team has always helped us to keep evaluating what we do and coming up with new ideas. In January 2023 following a total review of the business, it was decided that all groups would produce termly Setting Improvement Plans (SIP's) which will give them more responsibility for what happens in their own areas. This has seen our team make lots of positive changes including new routines with longer lengths of uninterrupted time to allow children to become engrossed in their play, new plans for implementing Sign language, Welsh Language Development and Yoga and changes to the types of activities we do to ensure the use of more natural and recycled materials to make us more sustainable and ecologically friendly.

How have we graded ourselves?

Wellbeing – Excellent
Care and Development – Excellent
Environment – Excellent
Leadership and Management – Excellent

What comes next.....

- We introduced a new format for Apprenticeships this year and will monitor this and feedback to Welsh Government as requested.
- Alongside the new Apprenticeship scheme, we are implementing a new training plan to fill the gaps that we feel the current childcare qualifications miss. We are building a package of training and support that means our apprentices and team members will not only be excellent childcare practitioners but will also be highly skilled to carry out all of the "extras" that we know make the difference to children and their families.
- Both ESTYN and CIW have changed their guidelines so we will focus on embedding them into our policies and procedures.
- Developing our YouTube channel for parents to be able to access support and guidance form a range of topics including separation anxiety, toileting, sleep, and behavior strategies.
- Look for funding to change the current layout of our downstairs toilet areas to give us more space to add more children's toilets and to add shower facilities to enable our team to increase the times that they can access our onsite gym.
- Use EYPDG grant allocation to build on improvements made this year to our block areas, continue to expand out allotment, provide better storage for our outdoor clothing and create an area to allow children to get changed before coming inside.



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For a behind the scenes look follow chucklesnurserynewport



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