

Chuckles Nursery

Quality of Care Review September 2023 – August 2024

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

Our Mission Statement

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

Vision

To be remembered for making every day an adventure

We couldn't start this year's review any other way than to celebrate the incredible achievement of our team receiving 6 excellent judgements following our joint CIW and ESTYN inspection in October 2023.

Our final gradings really blew us away, we knew our Team and Children were amazing and we would have been happy with an Excellent or two, for us to get the recognition we felt we deserved but when it became three, four, five, six, everything became a blur, and we really couldn't believe what was happening – there were certainly lots of tears!

The first line of the report states, "Children show interest and amazement in discovery" and to be recognized for that makes us proud as we know our team works hard, to ensure that we are remembered for making every day an adventure!!

During our feedback the inspectors said that they were impressed with the care, attention, and dedication of our team. Team Chuckles are not just words we use; it is who we are, and we are very proud of that!

To read our full report:

https://chucklesnursery.wales/ciw_estyn/



And the recognition continued with awards from....

Congratulations, you have won our Top 20 Day Nursery Award!



Congratulations to everyone at Chuckles Nursery, you have won our prestigious 'Top 20 Rated Day Nursery' award!

You are receiving this award in recognition that you are one of the top 20 rated day nurseries in your region based on published reviews from parents and guardians.

For the 8th year in a row, yes the 8th year 😊😊😊 we made the top 20 best rated nurseries in Wales award!

This award is based on reviews left by our parents so it's always a little more special. We never get tired of reading those reviews and are so thankful.

We were so pleased to win Nursery of the Year (Wales) awarded by National Day Nurseries Association.(NDNA)



Emma and Hannah went up to Coventry to represent us and were over the moon when our name was called.

"Chuckles is the best nursery you can imagine. They always open their door with a smile and what is really important we do not have to encourage our little one to go there. Thank you for your fantastic job"

Day Nurseries February 2024

"Chuckles has been an outstanding childcare provider for both my sons. They make Chuckles such an enjoyable place of learning for the children, my son absolutely loves his days in nursery and is always excited to attend"

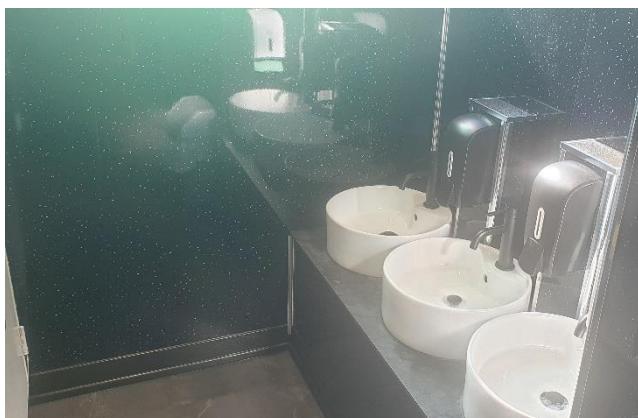
Day Nurseries August 2024.

This year's improvements

We decided to focus our efforts on completing the work we had started on our bike track area during the previous year. Gorilla grass came bay and laid artificial grass on the middle of our bike track area. Once that was done, a sensory tray for natural martials was built and we then purchased story pods, a Gruffalo bridge, a large sandtray and resources to go with these. Our allotment was a great success the year before so we added 2 large greenhouses to allow for more planting. One was placed on our bike track area so that our toddlers could get involved too!



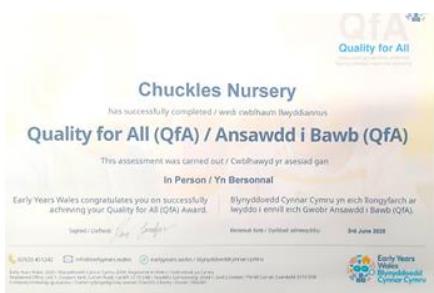
We purchased a new 'boot room' for the pre-school children to be able to keep all their outdoor clothing in and to help promote more independence in our outdoor environment.



In August we had our big toilet reveal, our downstairs children's toilets got a very sparkly makeover during the summer, and they certainly got the seal of approval from our children who exclaimed so cool!! as they explored it for the first time.



In May this year we were pleased to achieve Early Year's Wales's Quality Mark Award.



"We saw staff nurturing children's personalities through positive interaction and role modelling. Children were routinely praised throughout the observation" – QFA report June 2024

We once again achieved a level 5 rating in our scheduled inspection



Little extras for everyone to enjoy



The children spent a week making lots of musical instruments from recycled materials and put on their best singing voices to join for a full nursery music session as part of our **30 days wild challenges**.



As part of World Book Day activities we visited our local library Elmer the elephant was our inspiration to dress up in as many different colors as we could. We also took part in lots of Elmer themed activities including rainbow splash painting, making our very own Elmer the Elephants from recycled milk bottles and of course sharing our favorite Elmer stories with our friends.



torches and medals, everyone had lots of fun joining in with events.

We held our very 1st Chuckles Olympics which saw the children and our team joining in with events including cycling, long jumping, gymnastics, hurdles, running and climbing. We also made our very own Olympic flags,



“Planet v Plastic” was the theme for Earth Day. The children learned about the places on our earth, the difference between land and sea and how we can help protect them. Recycling and sustainability are still very much a part of our core values and teaching children how to recycle and be more sustainable has continued to be a priority for us this year as

well as moving towards becoming an eco-friendly nursery.

And our parents got to join in the fun too!!



Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus! We celebrated St David's Day by inviting our parents in for some arts and crafts. And our toddler and pre-school children joined us for some Easter themed arts and crafts activities and a very active sports session outdoors!

We also held our first baby music sessions in April of this year with 7 parents joining us for music and games. They received a pack to take home to encourage them to carry on with the songs and rhymes they had learnt at the session at home. We had very good feedback following the sessions with all parents feeding back that they would like to attend further sessions.

“Chuckles Nursery has been an exceptional environment for my son's development. The nurturing staff has demonstrated remarkable patience and responsiveness, fostering a supportive atmosphere where every child's needs are met” **Day Nurseries April 2024**

Always looking at ways to improve what we do and how we do it, and that hasn't gone unnoticed throughout the industry.

We have been lucky enough to be invited to several practice worth sharing events this year to tell other setting and practitioners all about the good work our team have been doing at the nursery.

Wow! A huge thank you to the 215 childcare and play providers who took time out to join our online event yesterday! What a great turnout!

Lisa from [Chuckles Nursery Newport](#) – your presentation on how you have achieved your 'excellent' ratings was truly inspirational.

And thank you to Leanne from [Mudiad Meithrin](#) for taking part in our Q and A about our ongoing improvement project.



Several excellent practices were highlighted in our inspection on how we support staff wellbeing and development. These were presented by us to over 200 providers at two CIW Network events as we shared ideas on how settings could improve staff wellbeing and investment in their teams training and development. Information was then shared with several other providers who were keen to adapt some of the practices to their own setting to help support their teams.

We were also asked to present at Newport local authority's ALN conference, talking about Our Journey in implementing the Curriculum for Non-Maintained Settings. Following on from this we then hosted several visits from other settings and schools who talked to our team about how we develop effective environments that support learning, processes for completing planning and observations and outdoor learning.

During our inspection feedback we were asked if we could produce a case study on effective partnerships to highlight how we build partnerships with

our team, families and local community. We also collaborated with Early Years Wales to produce a 2nd case study all about our journey implementing the new curriculum and assessment arrangements within our pre-school group, and the positive impact it has had on our team and the children's learning.

To read these case studies please click the links below:

<https://estyn.gov.wales/improvement-resources/the-impact-of-strong-partnerships/> (ESTYN)

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/resource/04a11a5d-5ea9-4d2e-9e33-f9aaf178e516/overview> (HWB)

Training and Investment in Team Chuckles

Staff training and development is always seen as priority for us and team members have had the opportunity to attend a wide range of training including:

Being outdoors, Why woodwork? Enabling adults, Healthy start training, Anti-Racist practices, Active child, Active baby, Autism awareness, Sign a long and Intensive Interactions.

The impact of this training can be seen within the care and support our team give the children each day as they implement new ideas and adapt provision to ensure all children are supported in their learning.

Investing time in making sure our team feels supported, is also a priority for us.

Our "Chuckles Social Team has continued to organize social events which this year have included a Christmas party and BBQ where we had our 1st Chuckles Award Ceremony, and a Chuckles Challenge event which included team building games and a "Chuckles through the years" quiz!

We have also continued to fund "Fit Steps" classes for team members who wish to attend and allow access to our onsite gym, as well as the ever popular "Cake Day" each month.

Our team has continued to have input in everything we do here at Chuckles, and they have made lots of positive changes this year. This includes:

New routines with longer lengths of uninterrupted time to allow children to become engrossed in their play, implementing new ways of doing Sign language that embeds it into routines for all age groups,

Further work to develop Welsh Language 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.

We held 2 online staff meetings and 2 in person meetings that provided our team with updates, a chance to evaluate what we have been doing and a place to discuss new ideas and ask questions. Topics covered for discussion at this year's meeting have included the new recycling laws, Welsh language development and our Chuckles Menus.

We also used one of our staff meetings as an opportunity to celebrate our amazing inspection achievement with treats and gifts for the team to show the nurseries appreciation of their efforts. It's safe to say when we made the announcement of our ratings, they were for once lost for words (which certainly doesn't happen to our team often!!)



Our team achieved the following qualifications this year....

Children's Play, Learning and Development (CCPLD) Levels 2, 3, 4 and 5
Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement (AVA)

We have two new apprentices who have just joined our team to complete their level 2 CCPLD qualification, whilst our three other apprentices have all moved on to their level 3 this month. We also have a further 5 team members upskilling in level 4 in CCPLD - Professional practice and 1 completing her level 5 in Leadership and Management of CCPLD.

Effective Partnerships – “Practitioners provide further valuable experiences by regularly visiting the local library to enjoy stories. They also visit the nearby care home to spend time with the residents, developing a strong sense of community and belonging” **CIW/ESTYN Report October 2023**.

Although funding for transitions led by Save the Children stopped this year, we continued to make transitions a priority by linking independently to our feeder schools to put in place plans for the summer term. Millbrook primary school invited us once again to join them for their sports day and Monnow Primary organized forest school session for us to attend. We have also reached out to schools to arrange for teachers to contact us to share information either through visits, or via Teams. This was very successful with 15 out of the 18 schools we contacted engaging with us in some way.

We have maintained our good partnership working with the Local Authority, Early Years Wales, National Day Nurseries Association, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kid's Club and Mudiad Meithrin and our team regularly attend their events and network meeting throughout the year to share good practices and discuss current topics with professionals linked with these organizations.

Newport Live continued to deliver sports sessions each month for the pre-school and toddler children.

The nursery owner continues to sit on the board of trustees for Early Years Wales and is also a representative for non-maintained settings at the EYDCP panel. This ensured that we kept up to date with any new developments in the childcare sector

Monthly visit to two local residential homes has ensured that we have continued to create a sense of community and that our children understand the world around them. We have also taken regular trips to our local library where our children selected books to support their interests and joined in with Storytime sessions.

We made three food bank donations this year with the help of our parents and joined in with Bettws Early learning communities litter pick. And we have continued to share events and news via our Facebook Page - **Chuckles Nursery Newport**



We took also part in Greene Kings TUB2TUB recycling campaign to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Donating to our nearest Green King pub Parc Y Prior where tubs were being collected and taken to a plastic reprocessing center, before being sold onto plastic manufacturers to use in place of virgin plastics. It also supported our own environmental plan which has us moving towards a more eco-friendly and sustainable setting.

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).

Behind the scenes

In March 2024 we were successful in our tender application bid with a score of 95% to be an education provider for a further 4 years which means being able to deliver funded education session to our pre-school group.

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 once again using Padlet as a platform to input ideas and areas for

improvement.

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.

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.

We continued to work on the Welsh promise with Clybiau Plant Cymru to help increase the amount of spoken Welsh in the setting and work towards becoming bilingual.

Our new Chuckles You Tube channel went live, we added some older videos in their back from 2020, but we hope to start some new team videos going forward for parents to access.

We registered with Easyfundraising; an online platform that means over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for free every time parents use #easyfundraising to shop with them. This was promoted via our Facebook page.

How have we graded ourselves?

Wellbeing – **Excellent**

Care and Development – **Excellent**

Environment – **Excellent**

Leadership and Management – **Excellent**

What comes next.....

- Both ESTYN and CIW have changed their guidelines and updated standards 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 behaviour strategies.
- Look for funding to change the current layout of our downstairs office, staff toilet and storeroom areas to give us more space to add a disabled toilet, shower facilities to enable our team to increase the times that they can access our onsite gym and laundry area.
- Improve our current provision for children with additional learning needs and to make us a fully inclusive, universal provision that all children can access.



Search Chuckles Nursery Newport and like us to see what we do and don't forget to like our posts to ensure you keep getting notifications.



For a behind the scenes look follow **chucklesnurserynewport**

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