

## **Summation from our Flying Start Sustained Shared Thinking and Emotional Well-being (SSTEWE) assessment**

### **Crynodeb o'r adborth / Feedback Summary**

Observers would like to thank all the staff at Once Upon a Time for a fabulous morning and for allowing us to undertake the SSTEWE assessment. Observers were made to feel extremely welcome in the setting as usual, and all staff were warm and friendly. We would also like to praise staff once again for a very good SSTEWE assessment, and once again scoring an excellent score, excelling on previous assessment undertaken.

We would like to praise the staff for their recent achievement, being awarded as one of the top 20 nurseries within the UK, and top 3 within Carmarthenshire. This is an excellent achievement, and 100% deserved. Observers always have a wonderful time at Once upon a Time, whether it be during the SSTEWE assessment, or on other visits to the setting.

Staff at the setting are extremely warm, caring, friendly, welcoming, enthusiastic, kind, and engaged 100% in children's overall development. During the day of assessment, it was felt that staff were fully in tune with the needs and interests of all the children. Staff were very responsive to the needs of each individual child. It was evident that all staff enjoy being with the children, they all showed a sense of fun and enjoyment throughout the whole of the session. The adult: child interaction of all the staff is impeccable. In addition to this, on the day of assessment it was evident that staff work efficiently and effectively together as a team, offering a seamless session for the children at the setting. It was very evident that there is an excellent team working approach and togetherness at the setting.

Again, observers would like to praise the staff for providing a colourful and stimulating environment for the children. The display boards and children's work on display is excellent practice. Observers were so impressed to see so many props made by the children linking in with the current theme, i.e., monkeys and binoculars. The 'All about me' board is a favourite, this is a lovely idea, especially with the addition of speech bubbles with exact 'word to word' language.

We would like to recognise and praise staff for offering two different sessions of activities on the day of assessment, ensuring that they were providing children with a wide range of opportunities to encourage development in all areas.

On the day of assessment, an excellent 'Amser Cylch' session was observed with a very good Storytime. The Storytime activity allowed the children to engage in the story, allowed for open ended questioning, long pauses, and making links to real life experiences. It was great to see staff encouraging excitement and wonder through the story. It was also great to see the use of props during the story, in addition to the variety of puppets on offer at the beginning of the session.

Staff at the setting are providing excellent opportunities for language development. They continue to undertake 'Core Vocab' sessions with the use of a 'Word Basket', they continually repeat and rephrase, continue to take 'word for word' samples of children's language development and much more. This is excellent practice which observers are pleased to see. To add to this excellent practice, all staff continue to wear lanyards throughout the session, and it was great to see these being utilised with a little one who has ALN. Well done!

Child centred planning at setting is exceptional. Observers were very impressed with the way in which staff at the setting involve children in the planning, as well as how they involve them in the setting up and clearing away of resources. It was evident to observers that it is all about the children. In addition to the child centred planning, it was excellent to see the detail in the other planning within the planning file. It was great also great to see how staff record observations weekly, which are then fed into future planning, allowing for progression.

Furthermore, observers would like to recognise and praise how staff at the setting go above and beyond to record their observations and children's development for the parents/ carers. The detailed 'Learning Journeys' are excellent! It just goes to show that staff go above and beyond for the children in their care. They are passionate about working with children, and this was fully evident on the day of assessment.

There are many other aspects that the observers would like to recognise.

We continue to be impressive to see, that although the door to the nursery was open at all times, not 1 child attempted to go out of the door until they required the toilet or when requested too by staff to wash hands, have snack, etc.

We loved the new additions to the setting, the fish tank and the sensory room. The fish tank will allow for expansion and linking to real life experiences, and the sensory room will be a great resource for the children with ALN.

It was excellent practice to hear staff giving children a 10-minute warning prior to tidy up time, which was followed by an explanation of what would be happening next and involving the children in this. This was undertaken throughout the session. Excellent!

As mentioned in our previous SSTEWE report, observers absolutely love the 'Hi 5' with the emotions board, this is an excellent tool to encourage children's emotional well-being and something which the children seemed to enjoy.

Observers would like to take this opportunity to praise and recognise the way in which the 1:1 staff member engages and works with the child with ALN. It was evident that the little one has a close relationship with this staff member. The staff member is fully in tune with the needs of this little one and was exceptional in the way in which she was engaging and interacting with the little one. Well done!

On summary, staff at Once Upon a Time are exceptional childcare staff who offer the most amazing high-quality childcare provision to the children and families in their care. Observers are extremely proud to have them as a contracted provider within the Flying Start programme. Staff should be extremely proud of themselves and the way in which they care for the children and the exceptional play opportunities which they provide the children with. It was evident on the day of assessment how much fun and enjoyment the children have when attending Once Upon a Time. We would like to thank the staff at the setting for all that they do.

Well done all!