



Childcare Inspection Report on

Here We Grow

**The College Merthyr Tydfil
Ynysfach
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1AR**



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Description of the service

Here we Grow Nursery is based at The College Merthyr Tydfil. It opens Monday to Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm with an earlier finish on a Friday of 5.30pm. It was registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in August 2013 and provides day care for up to 72 children between the ages of three months to twelve years. The service is run by Merthyr Tydfil College Limited who has appointed a Responsible Individual (RI) and a Person in Charge (PiC). The RI has the overall responsibility to ensure that the service is operated in line with the National Minimum Standards and Regulations. The PiC manages the day to day running of the service. This is an English speaking setting with some incidental Welsh used.

Summary of our findings

1. Overall assessment

Children enjoy their play and have a suitable range of activities and resources available to them. We saw positive, caring and affectionate interactions between staff and children. Staff are responsive to children's needs and provide appropriate care. The nursery is well lit, has lots of space and is secure. Most areas are well equipped with a large amount of resources and activities. The nursery is welcoming and is generally well maintained with appropriate health and safety measures in place. The outdoor areas of the nursery can be accessed directly from all base rooms and have developmentally appropriate activities and equipment available for children. The nursery has suitable policies and procedures in place. Leadership and management is effective with some recommendations made in relation to the environment.

2. Improvements

The nursery completed an in-depth action plan to address all areas of non-compliance and good practice recommendations identified at the last inspection. The non-compliance issues have been addressed and compliance has been met. All good practice recommendations have been addressed.

3. Requirements and recommendations

There was no non-compliance identified at this inspection. We have made two recommendations in relation to the environment. These are outlined in more detail at the end of the report.

1. Well-being

Summary

Outcomes for children are good. They are safe, their needs are met and they have good play opportunities to promote their all round development. Their independence is encouraged and they are forming positive relationships with their peers and practitioners.

Our findings

1.1 To what extent do children have a voice?

Children are able to make choices and express themselves. They have the freedom to choose their own toys and activities. Throughout our inspection we saw children of all ages pick out toys and resources of their choice and move from one activity to another. In the after school club children arrived and immediately went to toys and activities of their own choosing. For example, some children chose role play activities, whilst others played alone or in pairs. Children do have some say and input into planning. Children were very confident to speak out and comfortable to tell staff what they thought. We spoke to a group of older children in the afterschool club and they told us that they could speak to staff if they were worried about anything.

Children's views are valued and taken into account. This promotes their confidence and self esteem.

1.2 To what extent do children feel safe, happy and valued?

Children are forming friendships with others and are comfortable and happy in their surroundings. We saw children of different ages participating in activities and enjoying their play. There were lovely examples of children playing together during a sand play activity where they built sandcastles. Children were smiling and there were natural conversations between them and the staff. There was only one baby in the baby room who was asleep with a staff member monitoring them closely. Older children told us that they enjoyed attending the after school club, and like the food and the staff. Some children have been attending the nursery since they were babies and are now in the afterschool club. They told us that they loved the nursery and were proud to tell us about all the different areas they had been cared for throughout the nursery.

Children are well cared for, secure and at ease in the nursery. This promotes their well-being.

1.3 How well do children interact?

Children demonstrate an ability to manage their behaviour and are learning to consider the needs of others in relation to sharing and taking turns. Older children are able to co-operate and play with their peers without the need for adult intervention. Children played very well with each other and co-operated during group activities. In the after school club older children displayed similar positive behaviour. We saw several children in play situations where they were required to negotiate around each others wishes. Children were seen to share and use good manners such as please and thank you.

Children are learning valuable social skills and demonstrate an ability to co-operate and play well together. This promotes their social development.

1.4 To what extent do children enjoy their play and learning?

Children have the opportunity to follow their own interests, enjoy their play and gain a sense of achievement. They are learning new skills and the play opportunities are appropriate for their stage of development. We observed predominately self-directed play whereby children were given the space and time to undertake activities which sustained their interest. The outdoor area had a choice of activities or toys to play with. This area had some large fixed resources including a climbing frame with slide, bug house, play house and a mud kitchen. Older children were suitably occupied in age appropriate tasks and we spoke to a group of children from the after school club all of whom said they enjoyed coming to play at the club. We recommended an audit be completed of resources for the older children on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to engage the children's interests. The RI agreed to this suggestion.

Children have a good range of play opportunities which benefits their all round development.

1.5 How well do children develop, learn and become independent?

Children are encouraged to develop their self help skills and independence. They demonstrate a sense of achievement and pride in what they do and are confident trying out activities and playing with different resources. With regard to using the toilet facilities and hand washing staff encouraged children's independence. Before messy play children were prompted to put on their own aprons. We suggested that children where possible should pour their own drinks and that older children could help with laying the table. She explained that on most occasions this is the case .She agreed to ensure that this is done during all meal times.

Children are developing appropriate self help skills which is important in preparation for more formal education.

2. Care and Development

Summary

This inspection focussed on the outcomes for children under the Well-being theme. CIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Care and Development theme in detail on this occasion. This will be looked at in more detail during future inspections.

Our findings

However, this was our second inspection of the service to test non-compliance in relation to the supervision of children from the last inspection. We found that the RI and PiC has taken appropriate action and children are supervised appropriately at all times. Staff we spoke to confirmed that the routine for transitioning children between areas within the nursery has been consistent.

3. Environment

Summary

This inspection focussed on the outcomes for children under the Well-being theme. CIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Environment theme in detail on this occasion. This will be looked at in more detail during future inspections.

Our findings

However, this was our second inspection of the service to test non compliance in relation to the assessment of risks within the environment including exposed electrical leads of portable devices and dangling strips of material. We found that the RI and PiC has taken appropriate action and full risk assessments for all areas of the service have been developed. Two members of staff start 15 minutes before the nursery opens in the morning and a full risk assessment check of the nursery is completed. We did recommend that consideration is given to reduce risks in the sensory area where there is a soft play step that young children can access and fall a short distance. The RI agreed to look at this.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

This inspection focussed on the outcomes for children under the Well-being theme. CIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Leadership and Management theme in detail on this occasion. This will be looked at in more detail during future inspections.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

- **The Supervision of Children:** We are now satisfied that Regulation 20(1) (b) is being complied with as children are supervised appropriately at all times.
- **Risks in the Environment:** We are now satisfied that Regulation 25(a) in respect of risks in the environment is being complied with.

5.2 Areas of non compliance at this inspection

None

5.3 Recommendations for improvement:

- Audit of resources for the older children to be completed on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to engage the children's interests;
- children where possible should pour their own drinks and that older children could help with laying the table and
- consideration is given to reduce risks in the sensory area where there is a soft play step that young children can access and fall a short distance.

6 How we undertook this inspection

This was a focused inspection undertaken to test non-compliance found at the last inspection.

- One inspector undertook a visit to the service; we observed the children and the care they received at Here we Grow Day Nursery during parts of the afternoon session and
- we spoke to 7 members of staff regarding changes to the routine that has been implemented since the last inspection including the supervision routines throughout the session. In addition we discussed actions that had been updated with the PiC.

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

www.careinspectorate.wales

7 About the service

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Full Day Care
Responsible Individual	John O'Shea
Person in charge	Amanda Park
Registered maximum number of places	72
Age range of children	3 months to 12 years
Opening hours	8am to 6pm Monday to Thursday 8am to 5:30pm Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	29 September 2017 and 11 October 2017
Dates of this inspection visits	10 May 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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 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 people/children who use, or intend to use their service. We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words' follow up strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care.
Additional Information: None	