



Childcare Inspection Report on

Mini Miners Club

**Cameron House
57 Commercial Street
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7DW**



Date Inspection Completed

11/02/2020

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Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children's well-being
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children's well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice

Description of the service

Mini Miners Day care is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for 56 children up to the age of 12 years. The service is open from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday throughout the year. The service operates from a large three storey building in the centre of Ystrad Mynach. Day care, wraparound, after school care and a holiday club are on offer. Children are cared for in three separate parts of the building with two to three year olds on the ground floor, babies on the first floor and older children on the second floor. The service provides education for eligible three to four year old children and is registered with Estyn. The service is also registered as a Flying Start provider but is currently not operational. Kellyanne Evans is the owner of the business and acts as the responsible individual who has overall responsibility for the service. She has appointed a suitably experienced and qualified person in charge who has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the service. This is an English language service which uses Welsh extensively.

Summary

Theme	Rating
Well-being	Excellent
Care and Development	Excellent
Environment	Excellent
Leadership and Management	Excellent

1. Overall assessment

Children enjoy well-planned activities and stimulating experiences. They receive nurturing and supportive care from staff who have the appropriate skills and training to carry out their roles to a consistently high standard. Staff receive support to carry out their roles effectively and they are able to make a positive impact on the learning and development of children. The environment is inviting, well maintained and planned to stimulate children's learning. The management of the service is carried out exceptionally well and both the person in charge and the responsible individual work proactively to improve and develop the provision of care.

2. Improvements

The resources on the second floor have been extended and improved to meet the needs of children receiving education provision on the premises and for older children receiving out of school care.

3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no non compliance issues identified during this inspection.

We made one recommendation which is recorded at the end of the report.

1. Well-being

Excellent

Summary

Children experience an excellent quality, nurturing service which gives them a very good foundation for their learning and development. They are confident to make choices about their play activities and receive support to make their own decisions about their care. They have good opportunities to interact with their friends and carers and make excellent progress in all aspects of their learning and development. They receive warm and responsive care and benefit from positive experiences and interactions.

Our findings

Children of all ages receive encouragement to direct their own learning. They voice their views freely and choose their own activities and resources. Children express themselves with confidence and communicate their needs in a variety of different ways depending upon age and stage of development. Most children are confident to state their opinions verbally or by using gestures. Their preferences and feelings take precedence over the daily routine. Children choose from a wide variety of stimulating opportunities and are involved in the activity planning. Care staff ask children for their ideas about what they should do next, giving them opportunities to problem solve. Preschool children enjoy choosing well-loved stories and joined in with *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* using actions, sounds and gestures with enthusiasm.

Almost all children settle well and babies cope with separation from their parents with ease. Settling in routines with babies are very well managed and take into the specific needs of individual children. Parents highly value the digital 'app' used to record information about all aspects of children's care throughout the day, which they can access freely. The atmosphere in all the rooms is warm and friendly and children benefit from individual attention from their key workers and other staff who know them well. Children make close friendships with their peers and children using the wraparound service discuss how much they appreciate spending time together outside of school.

Children are active and curious learners and enjoy the activities on offer which stimulate their interests and provide very good opportunities for learning and promoting independence. They experience fun and show delight when pouring water into cups and other receptacles in the tuff tray. This activity is used with success to give children opportunities to practice self-help skills such as pouring drinks at meal times. Children value the experience of cutting fresh fruit and vegetables in their role-play activities and show and talk about their tasks with pride. They help themselves to food at meal times with confidence and use cutlery, serving spoons and tongs with skill.

Almost all children interact and cooperate well with each other and with adults. Younger children are mostly in the early stages of understanding their emotions and are becoming sensitive to the feelings of others. Children show a caring attitude to their friends and are learning to take turns when playing games and sharing resources. Younger children are happy to share resources and implements when playing with play dough and sand and cooperate to cook and look after their dolls in the playhouse.

2. Care and Development

Excellent

Summary

There are effective systems and procedures in place to ensure staff have the knowledge and skills to provide a safe service which promotes positive outcomes for children. Regular and rigorous monitoring of systems ensures the health and safety of children is prioritised and that safeguarding and child protection underpins all practice. Staff are well qualified and provide safe and nurturing care for children. They understand the service's policies that inform their practice. They manage children's behaviour skilfully and monitor their development effectively.

Our findings

Staff are clear regarding their role and responsibilities to keep children safe and promoting their wellbeing. All staff receive child protection training which includes Prevent when they start working at the service. They are confident to identify any concerns and understand the process of referral to the appropriate authority for investigation. The person in charge ensures all issues which relate to child protection are recorded and include any outcomes which result from actions undertaken. Good relationships exist between the person in charge and the local authority safeguarding team who provide information and advice as required. There are effective, well-developed health and safety procedures in place to keep children healthy and well. These include records of allergens and clear infection control practices. Each child has an 'All About Me Profile' which contains detailed information on children's individual needs. Staff receive training as needed to care for children with specific requirements, for example administration of Epi Pens, and sign language for hearing impairments. Children receive healthy, nutritious food that is prepared on site by a qualified cook who ensures any allergies or nutritional requirements are considered and children eat food which is safe and inviting.

Staff manage interactions with children consistently and are positive role models at all times. They understand the triggers that can contribute to unsettled behaviour. The staff consider the impact of overstimulation on individual children. This includes sensory considerations such as noise level and the effect of brightness of lights. Each of the base rooms has an area where children can go to be quiet and calm. The staff aim to provide a home from home environment as far as possible which benefits all children and especially those children who attend the service on a full time basis. Staff listen to children and respect their views. Most children returning from school for the wraparound service are happy to take part in group activities but are also free to choose how to spend their time. Yoga and the practice of relaxation and breathing techniques are regular activities enjoyed by most children and helps to settle and provide a calming mood.

Staff plan an excellent range of activities appropriate to the age and stage of development of children. The development of preschool children is monitored using the Foundation Phase Profile guidance. Detailed information is passed on with the child when they transition to a new base room and these development trackers are passed on to the child's school as appropriate. The service is looking at innovative ways of supporting children's development and actively research methods that could be of benefit to individual children. Welsh is used widely throughout the sessions and children are beginning to understand the language through repetition and the regular use of rhymes and songs.

3. Environment

Excellent

Summary

The service operates from a spacious three storey building in the town centre of Ystrad Mynach. The premises is adapted to provide care for children in three separate base rooms. Preschool children occupy the ground floor; babies are on the first floor with the wraparound, after school and holiday services are on the top floor. It is spacious and well designed to provide excellent opportunities for children's learning and development. The leaders ensure safety is prioritised and the available space is well utilised.

Our findings

The person in charge ensures safety systems are effective and that any risks are assessed and minimised regularly. All visitors sign into the building and careful monitoring takes place via CCTV to ensure there is no unauthorised access to children. Staff use key fobs to gain entry to each room. Parents sign children into the service with times of arrival and departure. There are cleaning rotas and checklists that ensure the premises are well maintained to a consistently high standard. Separate sleeping facilities are in place for babies in cots on the first floor that are monitored every five minutes by staff. There are separate areas for messy play in each of the base rooms. The cook uses the kitchen on the top floor to prepare meals for all children. Staff use a lift to transport food and heavy items to other floors. They carry out fire drills quarterly and records contain an evaluation of each evacuation. Accidents are logged appropriately and signed by parents and these records are audited each month to assess any issues which might require further attention. Gas, electric and fire systems are checked annually. The gas certificate was sent to CIW after the inspection. The Public Liability certificate is also renewed annually and displayed on the notice board in the foyer. The person in charge and responsible individual both work full-time at the service and are present each day.

Leaders provide a rich environment for children's learning and development. There is an excellent range of resources and experiences available to children which change as needed to be responsive to children's needs. Staff allocate roles to older children who value the opportunity to learn new skills and assume responsibility for tasks which include arranging the environment and acting as a monitor at meal times. The person in charge and her staff have developed the environment in line with the Curiosity Approach. This method centres upon promoting a child's innate curiosity to use their imagination by using ordinary household items made from natural resources to explore the environment. Children receive encouragement to use the items available to create their own playthings. This approach does not depend upon brightly coloured plastic toys and aims to create a calming environment. Children are happy to experiment with the items available to them and use the resources to build their own games such as a garage from

separate parts. Children show interest and value the opportunity to look after the animals which live in each of the rooms. These include a rabbit, fish and large snails.

The facilities for children are well maintained and stimulating to all children. All the base rooms have high quality, durable furniture and fittings. There are high and low chairs for babies and areas with soft furnishings for children to relax as needed. Children's craftwork is displayed on the walls and this contributes to the bright and friendly atmosphere. Wall displays include celebrations of the traditions of families from different origins. This promotes inclusion and values the unique heritage and culture of individual children.

4. Leadership and Management

Excellent

Summary

The registered person and the person in charge have a very clear vision that is based upon providing the best possible experience for children's care and development. They have very good systems in place to evaluate and monitor the quality of the service and are committed to improvements in all areas. They are excellent leaders, provide good support and developmental opportunities and successfully motivate staff to provide high quality care.

Our findings

Leadership is proactive and the service is very well managed. There is a clear statement of purpose in place which provides an accurate picture of the service and is displayed in the hallway for parents to view. Leaders have excellent knowledge of the regulations and National Minimum Standards. The service is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and all personal information is maintained confidentially. The person in charge supports the team to focus continually on achieving positive outcomes for children and sets high expectations. A training plan and matrix identify the training and development needs of the team. Staff have good opportunities for personal and professional development.

The management team provides consistent, individualised and family friendly support to the staff team. After consulting with care staff, a four-day working week was put in place. Staff are very satisfied with this arrangement and feel they have a voice in how the service operates. Additional staff are now employed specifically to cover staff holidays and sickness, which has decreased with the new working arrangements. The management team invest in the team and provide regular one to one meetings that address any professional and personal issues. Staff take part in a 'job crafting' exercise where they are asked to identify their skills and passions. They receive support to integrate these into the daily activities. Examples include one member of staff leading puppet making workshops whilst another offered her skills as a 'wellbeing coordinator'. These actions provide staff with opportunities to be creative and included in the running of the service.

There are excellent procedures in place for safe staff recruitment. Records show the required checks are in place for all staff to determine their suitability. The management team produces an annual quality of care report which includes the views of children, staff and parents. The development plan forms part of this review and the team have clear priorities and targets for the next year. These include extending and improving the use of the Welsh language in the service, providing more opportunities for the involvement of parents and upgrading the outside play facilities. Partnerships with parents are strong and parents are extremely satisfied with the quality of care provided to their children. Parents comments include, 'The staff are like family to me' and 'they have supported me from the beginning when I needed it most'. Beneficial partnerships exist within the local community.

This includes shops and libraries as well as community support when some damage was sustained to equipment outside. There is a complaints policy in place although no complaints have been received. The service is working towards providing the active offer of the Welsh language and aims to become a bilingual service.

Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement:

Ensure the timely servicing of the gas system

5. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full, scheduled inspection carried out on 6 and 11 February 2020.

One inspector undertook an unannounced visit for six hours on the first day and three hours on the second day.

- we looked at the information already held by CIW
- we spoke to a number of children and four parents
- we consulted with five members of staff, the responsible individual and the person in charge
- we looked at a range of service records which included the statement of purpose, children's files, staff files, staff rotas, children's register of attendance and a range of policies and procedures
- we made a visual check of the premises inside and outdoors
- we provided the person in charge with feedback at the end of the second day

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

www.careinspectorate.wales

About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Responsible Individual	Kellyanne Evans
Person in charge	Laura James
Registered maximum number of places	56
Age range of children	0 – 12 years
Opening hours	7.00am to 6pm
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 September 2018
Dates of this inspection visits	6 and 11 February 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes, although not currently operating as a Flying Start provision
Is early year's education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	The service is working towards providing the active offer of the Welsh language
Additional Information:	None

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