



Childcare Inspection Report on

Cylch Meithrin Ifor Bach

**Ysgol Ifor Bach
Windsor Way
Abertridwr
Caerphilly
CF83 4AB**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

19/09/2019

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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

Cylch Meithrin Ifor Bach provides sessional care for children aged between two and four years of age and is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for up to 19 children under the age of 12 years. The service operates a morning session from 8:50 to 11:30, and afternoon session 13:00 to 15:30 during term time only. The Committee have nominated a Responsible Individual (RI) to act on it's behalf, and a Person in Charge (PiC) runs the service on a day to day basis. This is a Welsh medium service.

Summary

Theme	Rating
Well-being	Good
Care and Development	Good
Environment	Adequate
Leadership and Management	Good

1. Overall assessment

Outcomes for children are good in relation to their well-being. They enjoy a variety of age appropriate play and learning opportunities to promote their development. Strong bonds have formed with their carers, who offer responsive and nurturing care to ensure that children's individual needs are supported. The environment is clean, bright and well resourced. There is an enclosed outdoor area, where children can enjoy developmentally appropriate resources and activities. However, more attention is required to ensure that potential hazards to children's safety are identified and removed promptly. Leadership and management of the service is effective.

2. Improvements

This was the first inspection following registration.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have advised the RI that improvements are needed in relation to

- Regulation 25 (c), identifying and the prompt removal of hazards and risks to children's safety in the environment;

A notice has not been issued on this occasion, as there was no immediate or significant impact for children using the service. The PiC took immediate action to rectify this.

We made good practice recommendations which are summarised in section 5 of this report.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children experience a nurturing service which gives them a good foundation for their learning and development. They are settled, and know they will be listened to by attentive staff.

Our findings

Children have a voice at the service. They approach staff to chat or to ask for assistance. We observed the children encouraged by staff to choose what they wanted to play with and they were obviously very familiar with the activities and areas available. Children's interests are incorporated into activity planning.

Children settle quickly and cope well with separation from parents. They know the routines well and this helps to develop a sense of security. During carpet time, children choose the songs they would like to sing. When one child decided not to join in with singing and play in the role play area, their choice was respected.

Children interact well with their peers and the staff caring for them. We saw that most of the children were polite and able to take turns. Children responded well when staff used phrases such as, "*We are kind to our friends.*" We heard children using 'please' and 'thank you' throughout our visits. Children were visibly pleased when staff praised them for sharing and being kind to each other. Most children are developing coping strategies to deal with the times when they have to wait or share resources.

Children are engaged in their play and learning but can also relax and enjoy quiet times. They have the freedom to explore their environment both indoors and outdoors. They are able to concentrate for an appropriate amount of time for their stage of development. They have extended periods of child initiated, uninterrupted play as well as frequent opportunities for adults to play alongside them. We saw that the children had access to a variety of activities and resources which were appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children could join an adult led activity with the freedom to leave for an alternative activity at any time. There was a busy but relaxed atmosphere with children engrossed in play and learning of their choosing.

Children have a good variety of experiences, including freely chosen, unstructured and self directed play. This enables them to gain a good range of skills, be independent, participate, follow interests and promote their all-round development. Children were provided with some opportunities for independence at snack time, however there were some missed opportunities for children to serve themselves.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

Children are cared for by suitably qualified and enthusiastic staff. There is consistent expectations of behaviour and interactions are well managed. There are suitable systems in place for monitoring children's progress.

Our findings

Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. There is a safeguarding policy in place which includes reference to the Prevent duty, and staff have attended child protection training. We saw that mandatory training such as safeguarding, food hygiene and paediatric first aid is updated in a timely manner. Accident and incidents are recorded efficiently, and evaluated to identify any patterns. The service has a recording system in place for recording pre existing injuries for children attending the service. Children develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles by receiving support to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet facilities. Children are provided with healthy snacks and water or milk to drink at snack time, however children did not have access to drinking water throughout the session which they could access independently.

Staff have consistent expectations of behaviour and work in line with their behaviour management policy. We saw that there was lots of praise for positive behaviour and when reminders were needed, they were done in a calm and quiet manner. Children responded well to requests from staff and on the day of the inspection, and behaviour was generally good.

When some minor disagreements occurred, staff intervened appropriately and they were quickly diffused.

Children are cared for by staff who are caring and responsive to their needs. They are enthusiastic which ensures that children's play, learning and development is promoted. Planning for activities takes place and takes into account the changing needs and interests of the children. Activities are evaluated well and clearly highlight what has worked well and what needs to be changed in order to make improvements. The staff group meet as a team regularly to discuss any on-going issues. Children's development is monitored by their keyworkers.

3. Environment

Adequate

Summary

The service operates from rooms within the school and the service has its own area for outdoor play, which is enclosed. Overall, health and safety procedures are in place to ensure the welfare of children.

Our findings

Staff are clear on their roles and responsibilities in keeping areas safe. They routinely tidied away areas that became too cluttered and they supervised children closely. Visitors to the service are required to sign in, and staff and children's times of arrival and departure are recorded. The service is registered with Environmental Health as a food service and achieved a score of five in their last inspection. Daily safety checks are in place for the premises, however during the first day of the inspection, we noted that an item of play equipment in the outdoor area was damaged and could potentially cause injuries to children. We spoke to the PiC and informed her that this was an area of non compliance. She took immediate action and the item was removed by the second day of the inspection, therefore achieving compliance.

Leaders ensure the environment is suitable for children, and provide welcoming play areas. The lay out of the room promotes children's independence as resources are generally accessible meaning children can select toys of their choice without the need for adult support. There are designated spaces for role play activities and messy play allowing children to be engaged in various activities without getting in each others way. There is a reading areas for children who wish to sit and look at a book. Toilets and sinks are situated next to the main room. Relevant information is displayed for parents on a notice board including insurance and staff photographs.

Leaders ensure that children have access to a range of resources that sustain their interest. Resources are plentiful and are readily available supporting children's independence and choice. There is a good selection of Welsh language and multi-cultural toys and books. Furniture is of good quality, well maintained and is appropriate to the age of the children. Resources support the foundation phase curriculum and are appropriate to the needs and interests of the children.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

Leadership and management of the service is good. The PiC was fully engaged in the inspection process. Partnerships with parents and the wider community are effective and serve the best interests of the children and their families.

Our findings

The day to day running of the service is effective and it runs smoothly. There is a clear statement of purpose that accurately reflects what the service offers. This allows parents to make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. Suitable policies and procedures are in place and reviewed annually. Children's contracts we examined were complete and necessary parental consent was evident. Routine records such as accident, incident, and pre-existing injury forms are completed and signed by parents.

There are appropriate systems in place for the self-evaluation of the service. An annual quality of care report is produced. This includes an action plan highlighting areas for improvement. We saw evidence that the service is subject to on-going improvement such as the development of the outside play space. There is a complaints policy in place should parents want to make a complaint.

The team work very well together, are aware of their roles and responsibilities and communicate effectively with one another. There are regular staff meetings which ensure on going issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently. There is a small team of staff, but they are able to cover any absences by calling upon part time staff; agency staff are not used. This ensures there is continuity of care for the children who attend. DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and mandatory training is renewed as necessary. The service is a member of an umbrella organisation which provides support if required.

The service works closely with parents and the community to promote positive outcomes for children. The playgroup has a system in place to gather information about children's needs and preferences at registration. The PiC told us children are taken on outings within the community to the local park and shop.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We discussed the following good practice recommendations with the PiC;

- Ensure children have access to drinking water throughout the session, which they can access themselves;
- develop opportunities for independence at snack times, and
- ensure risks in the environment are identified as part of the daily checks.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector made two visits to the service, the first of which was unannounced. As part of this inspection we;

- observed care practice;
- made a visual check of the premises;
- considered information available to CIW;
- looked at a range of documentation;
- interacted with children, and
- took account of feedback provided in one CIW parent questionnaire.

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

www.careinspectorate.wales

7. About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Responsible Individual	Katie Racz
Person in charge	Kristen Wynne
Registered maximum number of places	19
Age range of children	2 to 4 years
Opening hours	08:50 – 11:30 and 13:00 – 15:30 weekdays during term time
Operating Language of the service	Welsh
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First inspection since re registration
Dates of this inspection visits	18 and 19 September 2019
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 provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It provides a service that anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service.
Additional Information: None	

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