



# Childcare Inspection Report on Maendy First Steps Playgroup and Wraparound

**Maendy Primary School  
Northville  
Cwmbran  
NP44 1NH**



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## **Description of the service**

Annette Webb is the Registered Person (RP) for this service and she also acts as the Person in Charge (PiC) on a part time basis. Two other staff members are also nominated as PiC's for this service. Care is provided at Maendy First Steps Playgroup and Wraparound for up to 30 children at any one time. They are situated in Maendy Primary school in the Cwmbran area of Torfaen. They provide care between the hours of 8:45 a.m. until 3:05 p.m. weekdays, during term time. The service is delivered through the English language with the use of incidental Welsh. They do not provide the Welsh language 'Active Offer'.

## **Summary of our findings**

### **1. Overall assessment**

This focused inspection considered children's well-being and followed up on an area of non compliance identified at the previous inspection. Children are happy, occupied and enjoy a range of suitable activities which keep them occupied. They have developed good relationships with the staff who care for them and are familiar with the routines within the service. Two new PiC's have been nominated for the service, to improve leadership and manage the day to day operation of the playgroup and wrap around service.

### **2. Improvements**

Leaders have addressed the non compliance highlighted in the previous report in relation to staff supervision and appraisals. They have also improved the way records are stored and managed and are working on the other recommendations outlined in the previous report.

### **3. Requirements and recommendations**

We reminded the provider that we will consider the recommendations in the previous report at the next full inspection. A copy of the most up to date Statement of Purpose must be sent to CIW each time it is amended.

# **1. Well-being**

## **Summary**

Children enjoy a range of suitable activities that promote their learning and development. They are content and happy at the service and have formed relationships with their peers. They have fun and enjoy exploring, especially outdoors.

## **Our findings**

### **1.1 To what extent do children have a voice?**

Children enjoy choosing from a range of free play opportunities. The children moved around the play space selecting items that interested them. They determined how long they played and moved on to other areas of interest, when they were ready. Children are listened to. For example, some children were using musical instruments when they instigated a music and movement song. Staff responded to this request and they enjoyed it so much, that they enthusiastically requested it again. Staff repeated the songs chosen by the children. Other children joined in and requested their favourite songs, which were sung together.

Children's opinions are respected and they have a voice at the service.

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

Children approach staff spontaneously for comfort and engagement. Some children snuggled alongside staff as they sat reading a story. Others held the hands of staff members as they went into another room for snack or walked around outside. This demonstrates a sense of security. Children laughed often as they played with their friends and as they joined in with adult led activities. It was evident they were content and having fun.

Children feel safe and secure in the service and they are happily engaged in their play.

### **1.3 How well do children interact?**

Children are developing skills such as turn taking. At snack time, children waited for their turn. For most children, they understood these expectations and they were familiar with this routine. Some needed some support from staff who distracted them with activities until it was their turn to eat. Most children were kind and caring. They generally played alongside their peers but some, who were more confident, interacted with other children and invited them to play. Unwanted behaviour was challenged appropriately by staff, who gave clear and appropriate directions to the children. Explanations and reassurance were also provided to help the children understand why there had been an intervention. Children were praised for being kind and encouraged to apologise if they upset anyone.

Children interact well with others and are developing co-operation skills.

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

Children were actively engaged in a range of activities. Some sat for good periods of time engaged with jigsaw puzzles, while others enjoyed moving around exploring different areas such as, chalking, the sand and role play areas. As they played they were introduced to early mathematical skills such as counting and recognising shapes and sizes. Outdoors, children were excited as they engaged in physical play. Some played on bikes, scooters and other wheeled toys while others enjoyed kicking and rolling footballs which helped develop their gross motor skills. They thoroughly enjoyed their time outside and for some children they were disappointed when it was time to go home.

Children have fun and learn through the good play experiences

## **2. Care and Development**

### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection and we did not consider it necessary to look at this theme on this occasion. This will be considered at future inspections.

### **3. Environment**

#### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection and we did not consider it necessary to look at this theme on this occasion. This will be considered at future inspections.

## **4. Leadership and Management**

### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection and we did not consider it necessary to look at this theme in full on this occasion. This will be considered at future inspections.

### **Our findings**

#### **4.1 How effective is leadership?**

Leaders are responsive to feedback and are committed to making improvements. We saw that the Statement of Purpose had been updated since the previous inspection. However, a copy had not been sent to CIW as required by the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations. Through a discussion with one of the PiC's for the service it was noted that a minor change was required to the hours of the service. She agreed to make the amendment following the inspection and the RP agreed to send it to CIW. Other developments were noted since the previous inspection. Some of the records have improved in quality. For example, the accident records and registers of attendance are much clearer, well maintained and suitable for the service. Policies and procedures are in the process of being reviewed. We reminded the RP to date when these are updated. The RP and PiC told us they are working on the other areas highlighted for improvement in the previous report.

Leaders understand what needs to be done to improve the service and set goals for themselves and the staff.

#### **4.3 How effective is the management of practitioners, staff and other resources?**

Changes to the management are effective. The RP has nominated two staff as additional PiC's for the service. This is to ensure there is always someone with day to day responsibility at the service. Most staff work part time and this can be difficult to manage. However, staff felt that communication had improved since the last inspection and they were clearer on roles and responsibilities. We saw that all staff had received an annual appraisal, which they found useful and dates have been set to meet with staff on a one to one basis in the future. This provides staff with an opportunity to reflect on their practice and for any areas for improvement to be identified and discussed.

Management of the staff is improving.



## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.2 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

- The Registered Person must ensure that all employees who look after children receive appropriate supervision and appraisals.

At this focused inspection we found that the RP has satisfactorily addressed this matter. All staff have received an annual appraisal and have supervision dates scheduled.

### **5.3 Recommendations for improvement**

We discussed the following recommendations;

- Send CIW the latest Statement of Purpose and
- date policies when they are reviewed.

## 6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a focused inspection undertaken to review the progress on the non compliance highlighted in the last inspection report. One inspector visited the service for approximately two hours, to observe children and the care they received.

We:

- reviewed information held by CIW;
- undertook a visual inspection of the premises;
- used the SOFI 2 (Short Observational Framework for Inspection) tool, which is used to observe the quality of interactions between children and the care they receive;
- spoke to some children throughout the inspection. We also spoke to most of the staff and leaders working at the service;
- looked at a sample of records and documentation and
- provided detailed feedback and discussed areas for improvement to the Registered Person and Person in Charge

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

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)

## 7. About the service

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Annette Webb
Person in charge	Rhiannon Baker Jade Webb Annette Webb
Registered maximum number of places	30
Age range of children	2 – 4 year olds
Opening hours	8:45a.m. – 3:05p.m. Monday to Friday, term time only
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	16 and 17 May 2018
Date of this inspection visit	10 October 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Is early year's 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. <i>This is because the service is situated in a primarily English speaking area and the provider does not currently intend to offer or promote a Welsh language service.</i> We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's ' <i>More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care</i> '.
Additional Information:	

