



Childcare Inspection Report on

Meithrinfa Ddydd Ser Bach / Little Stars Day Nursery

**Owain Glyndwr Community Centre
Llwyn Helyg
Neath
SA10 7BZ**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

07/11/2019

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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

Meithrinfa Ddydd Ser Bach/Little Stars Day Nursery provides full day care for up to 19 children. They operate from The Owain Glyndwr Centre in Waunceirch, Neath and are open on Tuesday and Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Jacqueline Rice is the registered person and Danielle Rouse is the person in charge. The main language of care is Welsh

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children attending Meithrinfa Ddydd Ser Bach are happy and enjoy their learning experiences. They are cared for by knowledgeable and caring staff who are committed to meeting their individual needs. The children are happy and evidently enjoy their time here. Parents are happy with their children's progress and the service that is provided. Improvements are needed to ensure leadership and management is effective.

2. Improvements

The service has enrolled on a scheme to promote confidence for staff in speaking Welsh with each other and children.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have advised the registered person that improvements are needed in relation to the suitability of workers (regulation 28) and employment of staff (regulation 29) in order to fully meet the legal requirements. A notice has not been issued on this occasion, as there was no immediate or significant impact for children using the service. We expect the registered person to take action to rectify this and it will be followed up at the next inspection.

We have made recommendations in relation to environment and leadership and management. These are listed at the back of the report.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children's well-being is good. This is because children have a strong voice and have opportunities to contribute to the service. They decide how and in which area to spend their time and participate in a variety of different activities that are interesting and fun. Children interact with others positively and are making good progress and are becoming increasingly independent.

Our findings

Children have a strong voice as they choose how and where to spend their time. Children moved freely between the activities that had been set out indoors. They confidently speak and express themselves. Children who were fairly new to the service chose not to join in during circle time and left to play nearby. Most of the children sat in a circle for story and song time. Children were able to choose who they sat next to during snack and lunch time. A child was asked if he could put his apron on when painting but refused. It was explained to that he may get his clothes dirty. He then agreed to put it on.

Nearly all of the children feel settled and cope well with separation from their parents as they are familiar with their surroundings and the routine of the day. Almost all children chatted freely with others. Some children were very uncertain of our presence and stayed close to familiar staff. Older children chatted to us and involved us in their play, handing us a baby doll to rock to sleep. All children confidently explored the room, which showed that they felt comfortable in their surroundings and in the staff's company.

Children interact positively most of the time. Some waited patiently for their snack to be prepared whilst others were less patient and banged the table. Children are beginning to understand about sharing and playing co-operatively. During a dancing session, some children stayed on the side apprehensively as a few children were running fast around bumping into others. Some children had to be reminded not to throw toys at each other.

Most children are motivated and engaged in their play. Children enjoyed painting activities and others were engaged for a reasonable time when completing puzzles. Some children laughed and followed movement instructions to the music during a dance and movement session. Children enjoyed role play in the play house and wrapped dolls in blankets before rocking them to sleep.

Children generally make good progress as they benefit from participating in a variety of experiences that enable them to develop skills and they are becoming increasingly independent. Children had opportunities to develop physical development through dance and music. Children showed they could undertake tasks themselves as they ably used the

toilet and washed their hands independently. Children wiped their own faces after lunch and disposed of the wipes in the bin.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

Staff successfully keep children safe and healthy in a caring atmosphere. They manage interactions consistently and are good role models, using positive strategies. Staff promote children's learning through play effectively, providing stimulating activities and meeting children's individual needs.

Our findings

Staff understand and implement policies and procedures for the service consistently. Most of them have completed safeguarding training and knew who to contact in the relevant agencies if they had concerns. Two members of staff had current first aid qualifications and accident forms showed they had dealt with incidents appropriately. Staff ensured children enjoyed regular physical activities, but these were mostly indoors. Staff ensured tables are sanitised before snack and lunchtime and that all children washed their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Records of regular fire drills showed that staff and children know how to evacuate the premises safely.

Staff manage children's interactions consistently and positively, helping the children to co-operate and learn social skills. They sat with the children during mealtimes chatting and offering help when needed. Staff used every opportunity to praise the children for being kind or for doing a task they had not managed to do before. Staff were consistent and reminded children to be kind when they saw any negative behaviour. Staff celebrated children's achievements with hugs and clapping.

Staff meet individual needs effectively as they knew the children well. They provided a nurturing and caring atmosphere and gave responsive care as they knew and acted upon details about the children the parents had shared both verbally and in registration forms. For example, staff were able to tell us about children who did not want to be part of a large group. Staff promoted the development of all children by providing good play and learning experiences. They effectively promoted the Welsh language as the children understood what was said and responded in Welsh.

3. Environment

Adequate

Summary

The environment is spacious, light and safe. The quality and variety of the resources are good. Leaders provide a clean, secure and safe environment and risk assessments ensure all staff are aware of how to keep children safe. There is no dedicated outside play area.

Our findings

Leaders ensure that the environment is safe and secure and they supervise the children well. The main entrance remain locked and visitors' were let in by staff and asked them to sign the visitors' log. Staff recorded staff and children's arrival and departure times daily. All areas inside and outside were hazard free and leaders completed risk assessments successfully. Regular fire drills were carried out and recorded and we saw the current heating safety certificate and evidence that all electrical items had been PAT tested.

Leaders provided a light and spacious environment for children. Areas of play and learning were set out at child height for children to access easily. Indoors, children used child sized chairs, tables and furniture. Leaders were restricted by the hall committee to be able to display children's work on the walls. Leaders used small, low cardboard dividers to separate areas of learning and displayed children's work on them. Children did not have free access to the outdoor area and outside walks and visits were pre-arranged.

Leaders had ensured children had access to a range of good, stimulating play and learning resources. Activities and toys were available in sufficient quantity to ensure children had an interesting choice. All toys and games were clean and in good order. Resources were stored in a large cupboard and staff brought out a different choice daily. Equipment and furniture was suited to the ages of children attending.

4. Leadership and Management

Adequate

Summary

Leadership is adequate and improvements are needed. Policies and procedures are available and regularly reviewed. Staff recruitment is not robust and essential checks are not always completed. Leaders do not manage staff effectively and staff appraisals and supervisions are not carried out. Partnerships with parents and the local community are effective and benefit children and their families.

Our findings

Leaders have a basic vision for the service that they share with others. An up to date statement of purpose was received following our inspection and is accurate and a true reflection of what the service offers. Leaders comply with most regulations and have adequate knowledge of their responsibilities. The person in charge has an understanding of current best practice relevant to the children in their care.

Leaders are in the process of completing a current quality of care review. Leaders told us they use questionnaires and verbal discussions with children, parents and staff to seek their views of the service. Staff supervisions and annual appraisals had not been carried out since 2016. All staff hold relevant qualifications and individual files showed that not all relevant checks had been completed prior to employment of staff.

Leaders told us that they have established good partnerships with parents, the local school and the community. Staff from the school are invited to the service' annual Christmas concert. They raise funds for the service through selling raffle tickets. Leaders arrange regular fundraising events for charities. Leaders told us they arrange regular walks to the local park. Staff use home school books to inform parents of their child's day. Staff also send text messages to parents of children who are a little apprehensive when left at the service. Parents told us that staff know their children well, and keep in regular contact regarding events held at the service or in relation to their child.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We recommended that leaders ensure that

- the current quality of care review is completed and a copy sent in to CIW;
- all original and copies of staff DBS certificates are removed from individual files;
- all staff complete the 'prevent duty' training and
- a wider selection of resources to promote cultural diversity and equal opportunities are made available.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector undertook one announced visit to the service on 07 November 2019 for a total of five hours. As part of the inspection we:

- observed children and the care being given to them by staff;
- spoke to leaders, staff, children, parents, and carers;
- looked at a sample of documentation which included staff and children's registers, staff files, risk assessments, accident logs; and
- viewed the premises.

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 Full Day Care
Registered Person	Jacqueline Rice

Person in charge	Danielle Rouse
Registered maximum number of places	19
Age range of children	2 – 12 years
Opening hours	Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 3pm, Wednesday 9am – 12pm. Term time only.
Operating Language of the service	Welsh
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	16 February 2017
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	07 November 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
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 the ‘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:	

Date Published 12/02/2020

