



Childcare Inspection Report on

Cylch Meithrin Helyg Bychan

**Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg
Rising Sun Industrial Estate Blaina
Abertillery
NP13 3DQ**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

09/03/2020

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Description of the service

Cylch Meithrin Helyg Bychan has been registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) since September 2010. It operates full day care from a standalone building on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg in Brynmawr, for a maximum of 19 children aged two to five years. It opens for 39 weeks per year and offers two part time sessions, as well as a breakfast and lunch club should parents require this. The registered person and person in charge (PiC) for the service is Cheryl Hanney who runs the service on a day to day basis. The service offers flying start places and operates through the medium of Welsh.

Summary

1. Overall assessment

Outcomes for children are good. They enjoy a variety of age appropriate play and learning opportunities which promotes their development. Children have formed strong bonds with their carers who offer responsive and nurturing care to ensure that their individual needs are supported. The environment is well resourced. Leadership and management of the service is good.

2. Improvements

All recommendations from the previous inspection report have been achieved.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We did not identify any areas of non compliance at this inspection. We made good practice recommendations which are summarised in section 5.

1. Well-being

Summary

Children are encouraged to make choices and are happy and have fun at the service. They are provided with good opportunities and experiences to develop a wide range of skills to promote their development. Positive relationships are developing between children and their social skills are evolving in line with their age and stage of development.

Our findings

Children have a strong voice at the service. They are encouraged to independently access resources they wish to play with. Children are very familiar with the activities and areas available to them and they are confident in selecting from a wide of resources to further enhance their play. Children's self-expression is encouraged and we observed children painting and mark making onto blank pieces of paper, which they were keen to show us. The children are confident to approach staff to chat or to ask for assistance. Children's ideas and recommendations are included in the planning and the running of the session.

The majority of children settle quickly and cope well with separation from parents. They are happy, safe and comfortable and valued at the service. They have developed strong attachments with staff and their individual needs are catered for. We saw children becoming upset and then happily resume their play following reassurance from staff and their peers. Children are very familiar with the routine of the session and they all sat on the carpet ready for the next activity once they had finished tidying up.

The majority of children play well together and are learning to share and cooperate. We saw two children helping each other to fill up a jug in the water area whilst smiling and laughing at each other. The children interact appropriately in line with their age and stage of development. We saw children receiving consistent praise and encouragement from staff when persevering for an appropriate amount of time at an activity. We saw a child being encouraged to draw a big circle and a small circle.

There are many opportunities for children to engage in appropriate play and learning as well as opportunities for children to relax and have quiet time during the session. We saw some children choosing to access the comfortable 'Cwtch' area where they could relax away from the hustle and bustle of the session. Children enjoy child-led uninterrupted play as well as adult-led activities and we saw that children naturally invited adults into their play. Children have access to a wide range of natural resources that are suitable to their age and stage of development. Children's independence is developing at the service and resources are stored openly for the children to access them independently. Children are prompted to wash their hands independently for snack and are, with support, able to tidy up when an activity has ended.

2. Care and Development

Summary

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

Our findings

Staff are aware of their responsibilities to keep children safe. They are well trained in child development and mandatory training such as safeguarding, food hygiene and paediatric first aid are all up to date. Staff's knowledge of safeguarding procedures is good. Accidents and incidents are recorded efficiently. Children develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles by being encouraged to wash their hands before snack and after using the toilet. Children are provided with a nutritional snack and are offered milk or water. Staff sit with the children at snack time to promote their social skills. However, there were no opportunities for the children to develop their self-help skills at snack time. Children also benefit from tooth brushing during the session.

Staff treat children with respect and value them as individuals. They are nurturing and consistent in their approach and provide realistic boundaries for children to follow. All staff work in line with their behaviour management policy. They act as good role models and encourage children to be kind to each other. For example, we heard "bydd yn ofalus" to reinforce appropriate behaviour. Staff come down to the children's level and reassure them. We heard one member of staff reassuring a child who asked for their mum. Staff prepare the environment before the children arrive and take into account the children's likes and dislikes.

Staff are caring and responsive to the individual needs of the children. They are enthusiastic which ensures that children's play, learning and development is promoted. Children's personal needs are attended to promptly and they are treated with respect. Staff monitor and assess children's development in order to plan individually for the next steps in their learning. Staff know the children very well and we heard staff consistently praise and encourage children, which gave them confidence in their play and learning. All staff are keen to promote children's development. There is a key worker system in place and staff use development tracking tools to plan appropriate activities suitable for the age and stage of the children's development. Staff complete planning and evaluations effectively. Staff encourage children to develop curiosity about children's differing lives and beliefs by celebrating cultural events such as Chinese New Year and St David's Day.

3. Environment

Summary

The service is very inviting for children. Play areas are well-maintained and resources are in a very good condition. There is a wide range of activities to keep children engaged and stimulated, and effective risk assessments are in place to help ensure the safety of children.

Our findings

Leaders ensure the service is secure and that no unauthorised access is allowed. Visitors are asked to sign in and out in the visitor's book. Registers of attendance are maintained. The front door is kept locked and is monitored by staff. Daily safety checks are in place for the premises and there is a range of regularly updated risk assessments for activities and outings. We saw staff complete a visual safety check of the outdoor area before allowing the children to go out to play and they regularly mopped the wet floor around the water area. Fire drills are undertaken and recorded appropriately. We discussed the need to add more information to the recording of fire drills. Leaders have completed the Public Health Wales' Infection Control Audit Tool.

Leaders ensure the suitability of the environment and provide warm, welcoming play spaces for children. The play spaces promotes children's independence by offering low, open shelving units displaying a wide variety of resources suitable for their age and stage of development. There are designated areas within the play room which allow for both active and quiet play. Child sized toilets and hand basins are situated within the play room. However, children are not always encouraged to close the cubicle door to respect their dignity. Nappy changing facilities are also available. Leaders ensure that cleaning rotas are in place and overall, these ensure that areas are kept clean. Relevant information is displayed for parents on a notice board including insurances and staff photographs.

Leaders ensure that children have access to a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources. We saw that children were independently accessing a variety of resources including a role play house with real life resources and varying levels of appropriate mark making equipment. Leaders ensure that the outdoor area is suitable for the children and complete daily visual checks. The service has multicultural resources which are fully accessible to the children. Resources support the foundation phase curriculum.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

Leadership and management of the service is good. Leaders were fully engaged in the inspection process. Partnerships with parents are good and the service serves the best interests of the children and their families.

Our findings

Leaders have a clear vision for the service that is shared effectively with others. For example, the statement of purpose gives an accurate and informative picture of the service provided. Leaders ensure that all mandatory training is up to date and any necessary refresher training is scheduled in advance of the expiry date. Suitable policies and procedures are in place but these are not dated and reviewed annually. The children's contracts that we looked at were complete and necessary parental consent was evident.

There are appropriate systems in place for the self-evaluation of the service. An annual quality of care report has recently been produced. This includes a clear way forward for the service in terms of improvement. The quality of care report contains feedback from parents and children. Team meetings are held regularly to promote collaborative working. There is a compliments and complaints policy in place and complaints are dealt with effectively and in a timely manner.

Roles and responsibilities are well-defined and staff are effectively deployed. Staff work positively as a team and support one another to ensure that the sessions run smoothly. Staff files contain evidence of effective recruitment and monitoring. The service is a member of an umbrella organisation and they are currently co-working on the 'Croesi'r Bont' initiative to further develop the use of the Welsh language. We heard a very high level of Welsh being spoken by staff and children.

Partnerships with parents are strong at the service. Parents attend a 'Parents and Children Together' (PACT) session regularly where they are encouraged to support the development of the service. For example, the aim of the next PACT session is to plant flowers and seeds to develop the garden area. Leaders also told us that some parents have volunteered to work on developing the garden area when the weather gets warmer. We saw one grandparent bringing in flowers and gardening tools in preparation for the session. Parents speak highly of the service and one parent told us how happy she was with the cylch and how they helped her child move onto the school and another praised the support of staff.

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 they;

- encourage children's independence at snack time;
- add more detail to the fire drill logs;
- encourage children to close the toilet door when in use to ensure their dignity is respected and
- ensure that policies are dated and reviewed annually.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. Two inspectors made one unannounced visit to the service. As part of the inspection we;

- made a visual check of the premises;
- observed care practice;
- interacted with children;
- spoke with staff;
- spoke with parents;
- looked at a range of documentation, and
- considered information available to CIW prior to the inspection.

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	Cheryl Hanney
Person in charge	Cheryl Hanney
Registered maximum number of places	19
Age range of children	2-5years
Opening hours	8:00am to 3:00pm (8:00am – 9:00am breakfast club on parental request)
Operating Language of the service	Welsh
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	10 November 2017
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	09/03/2020
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.	

Date Published 05/08/2020

No noncompliance records found in Open status.