



## Childcare Inspection Report on

**Meithrinfa Ogwen Cyf.**

**Meithrinfa Ogwen  
Carneddi Bethesda  
Bangor  
LL57 3RU**

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This report is also available in Welsh**



**Date Inspection Completed**

05/12/2019

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<b>Ratings</b>	<b>What the ratings mean</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	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
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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 Ogwen Cyf operates from a privately owned detached building within the village of Rachub, Bethesda in Gwynedd. The service is registered to provide care for a maximum of 41 children. Care is provided for children aged 3 months – 8 years. The service provides Flying Start places for eligible children. The service is open from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm Monday to Friday. The responsible individual and person in charge is Delyth Jones. All aspects of this service are bilingual and meets the criteria of the Welsh Government's 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. The service also offers the Welsh Government's 30 hour Childcare Offer.

## Summary

Theme	Rating
<a href="#"><u>Well-being</u></a>	Good
<a href="#"><u>Care and Development</u></a>	Adequate
<a href="#"><u>Environment</u></a>	Good
<a href="#"><u>Leadership and Management</u></a>	Adequate

### 1. Overall assessment

Children are happy and express themselves well. Staff are welcoming and are responsive to most children's needs. The indoor and outdoor environments offer children the opportunity to follow their own interests and develop their physical skills positively. Leaders manage the service appropriately but some areas require improvement.

### 2. Improvements

Since the last inspection new flooring surfaces have been installed in the children's toilets and outdoor play area.

### 3. Requirements and recommendations

We advised the responsible individual that improvements are needed in relation to staff files (regulation 28) and keeping records (regulation 30) 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 responsible individual to take action to rectify this and it will be followed up at the next inspection.

We have made the following recommendations in relation to developing children's knowledge about re-cycling and staff training.

# 1. Well-being

**Good**

## Summary

Children express themselves well and are familiar with the daily routines. They interact positively and have fun developing their learning through play effectively. Children are developing their independence confidently.

## Our findings

Children were confident communicators and they had good opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affected them. For instance, during snack time children made requests for more cucumber or milk to drink and this was given without question. Children were happy to approach us to ask our names and showed curiosity and interest as to why we were typing on a computer while watching them eat. One child held up their bread stick and told us and staff it was 'mawr' (big) while another child ate theirs and commented their bread stick was now 'bach' (small). Children had an active discussion after story time and showed the staff member which of the props they had liked the most.

Children were settled and coped well with separation from their families. They were familiar with the daily routines such as putting on their aprons before lunch and washing their hands after a painting activity. Children were praised with positive language for their efforts and comforted when needed. For example, after waking from sleep, babies were cuddled and spoken to gently before they had their lunch. This made them feel happy and relaxed.

Children managed their interactions positively and co-operated well. For instance, during a yoga / mindfulness session children listened well to instructions and showed their friends kindly what to do if they were unsure. When tidying up their toys, children respected the equipment and resources and stored them carefully. They enjoyed the social occasion of meal times, were polite and used good manners.

Children experienced interesting age appropriate opportunities that promoted their all-round development and enabled them to confidently follow their own interests. For instance, a child sustained concentration well as they practiced their fine motor skills by scooping glittered water from one tray into another with a wooden spoon. Children practiced using their senses while placing different shaped textured figurines on a tactile story board with care. Younger children immersed their hands confidently into a variety of colourful paints to freely create their own art work. Children pretended to walk through a forest to find the hidden soft toy creatures, they commented on what they had found and this developed their language and imagination skills effectively.

Children were developing their independence well, they helped to prepare the tables for meal times but were served some of their food at snack time when they were capable of

doing this for themselves. Younger children received encouragement and support to self-feed and choose. Children explored their play area freely, for instance one child showed us how they pushed their baby doll in the buggy as they walked around gathering a variety of props to put in the basket area. Other children enjoyed showing us how they washed their hands and put the paper towels in the bin.

## **2. Care and Development**

**Adequate**

### **Summary**

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities appropriately. They manage interactions suitably. Most staff develop children's learning through play positively and meet their individual needs in a timely manner.

### **Our findings**

Staff understood and implemented the setting's policies and procedures suitably. Their safeguarding training was up to date and staff were aware of the correct procedures to follow if they had any concerns. However, not all logged concerns had been suitably recorded. We discussed this with the responsible individual who addressed the matter accordingly. Staff implemented satisfactory methods to keep children safe and healthy, for example, encouraging healthy eating and following suitable hygiene procedures. Nappy changing procedures were in line with current infection control guidelines and they encouraged children to wash their hands at appropriate times.

Staff had completed and updated suitable first aid training. They recorded accident, incidents and administering of medication forms but not all of these had been dated nor signed by both staff and parent. Staff conducted fire drills at appropriate intervals and recorded the outcome suitably.

Most staff had a warm and friendly approach to care giving and demonstrated genuine affection to reassure younger children. Not all staff were confident about the approaches and strategies of positive behaviour management. Staff told us they would like to attend training to develop their knowledge and practice. They praised children with positive language and encouraged them to use good manners appropriately.

Staff had organised defined learning areas suitably and this encouraged children to follow their own interests. They tracked children's individual progress well and used these observations to inform activity planning. Some staff members demonstrated exceptional skills in facilitating focused activities such as yoga, mindfulness, language and numeracy activities. These activities engaged children effectively and heightened their curiosity and learning through a creative and innovative approach. Staff involved children in story time and encouraged them to ask and answer questions to develop their language skills appropriately. Staff provided some opportunities for children to learn about their wider society and re-cycling suitably but more opportunities could be offered during meal times for



children to re-cycle their own food waste. They responded to children's needs in a timely manner.

### **3. Environment**

**Good**

#### **Summary**

Leaders ensure the environment is secure. There is sufficient space and facilities to meet the needs of children. Leaders make sure children have access to furniture, equipment and toys that are appropriate for their age and stage of development and these are of good quality.

#### **Our findings**

Leaders ensured the environment was secure, safe and well maintained indoors and outdoors. On arrival we were asked to sign the visitor's book and an electronic system was in place for entrance to the play area. The infection control audit tool had been undertaken and regular cleaning routines were in place reflecting good hygiene practices had been implemented.

The service had been awarded the highest rating from the food standards agency. Public liability insurance was also current. Leaders had completed effective general and fire risk assessments which had been regularly reviewed. They had made sure staff were aware of their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children and provided good supervision to ensure children's safety.

Furniture, toys and equipment were appropriate for the stage and development of children. Leaders used the environment well to meet children's needs. For example, children were allocated individual space for their personal items and a designated area for meal times. Leaders had attractively displayed children's themed art work and photographs of them in activity. This helped to create a sense of belonging. A good variety of activities were on offer and the premises was suitable for children who may have mobility difficulties.

The outdoor area was well organised and part of it had been refurbished with a new floor creating a better surface for children to play on. They had also purchased a wooden bug hotel to encourage children to develop their curiosity about wildlife and the natural world around them. There were good facilities for all those using the service and for confidential conversations to be held in private. The indoor toilets had also been refurbished with a new flooring which was kept clean. Leaders had organised an informative notice board and information area for families. This helped to keep parents informed about what is happening at the service and directed them to relevant agencies appropriately.

There were a varied selection of toys, some reflected our wider society such as dolls and small world figurines. The home corner was well organised with a variety of props related to the theme but here was a lack of re-cycled commercial household goods to help children develop their imagination. However, re-cycled boxes had been used as a junk modelling

activity with children to make their own Christmas tree, helping them to develop their design skills and practice using their senses effectively.

Leaders had organised craft and comfortable corners well encouraging children to be creative and have an opportunity to relax and enjoy quiet time with their friends. Books were attractively displayed encouraging children to read them.

## **4. Leadership and Management**

**Adequate**

### **Summary**

Leaders manage the service appropriately. They have a system to evaluate the service well. Staff and resources are managed suitably but not all areas meet requirements and improvements are needed.

### **Our findings**

Leaders maintained and shared an up-to-date statement of purpose that provided an accurate picture of what the service offered. Policies and procedures were in place and these were implemented suitably. Most of these had been reviewed recently and staff made aware of any amendments. Leaders had a sound understanding of their responsibilities to promote the Welsh language and could demonstrate the 'Active Offer' was implemented.

Leaders had an effective system in place for regularly gaining the views of those using the service to identify what works well, what requires improvement and what action needs to be taken. They had completed a comprehensive report reviewing the quality of care in June 2019. Feedback from parents, staff and children were generally positive. Leaders discussed their aim for the future to develop children's learning about their wider society through painting multi-cultural greeting signs on the wall and to re-decorate the internal walls of the environment with a choice of neutral colours to create a warm and calming effect for children.

Staffing qualifications did not meet the national minimum standards of having at least 80% of non-supervisory staff holding a relevant qualification appropriate to the post. However, on the day of our visit this did not have an adverse impact on the welfare of children as leaders ensured staff were deployed appropriately and supervised children well. We inspected two staff files but not all the required information had been collated to meet requirements. The responsible individual confirmed staff's enhanced criminal record checks were current and told us she was satisfied having seen their certificates. The responsible individual informed us that one newly recruited staff member's enhanced criminal record certificate had not as yet arrived and confirmed that this staff member was not left un-supervised with children and this was accurately reflected on the day of our visit.

Most staff told us they felt supported by leaders and they enjoyed working at the service. Staff informed us they received supervision and appraisal and these had been recorded. We inspected two children's individual records but leaders had not ensured all information relevant to meet the individual needs of children had been gathered by parent / carers to fully meet requirements.

We spoke to parents and they told us they were happy with the service as their children were settled and they had no issues. We received a response to our parent / carers questionnaires and this was positive. We did not see photographic evidence of children participating in activities in the community but leaders and staff informed us that they take children on visits to the local park to develop their awareness of their local surroundings.

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

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

None

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

Leaders should consider:

- Providing children with worthwhile opportunities to develop their knowledge about recycling and
- offering staff the opportunity to attend positive behaviour management training so as to gain knowledge of current strategies and approaches to develop their practice.

## 6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full-unannounced inspection as part of our schedule of inspections. One inspector visited the service on Thursday 05 December 2019 from 10:05 am – 2:05 pm and from 2:30 pm – 6:35 pm.

We:

- inspected a sample of documentation, policies two staff files and two children's individual records;
- observed practice and completed observations using the Short Observational Framework for Inspection tool (SOFI2) to capture evidence of children's engagement and the care being provided by staff;
- inspected the areas used, toys and resources;
- spoke with children, staff, the responsible individual who is also the person in charge and two parents / carers and
- provided feedback to the responsible individual.
- we also received one CIW questionnaire from a parent / carer after the day of our visit which was positive.

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

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

## 7. About the service

<b>Type of care provided</b>	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
<b>Responsible Individual</b>	Delyth Jones
<b>Person in charge</b>	Delyth Jones
<b>Registered maximum number of places</b>	41
<b>Age range of children</b>	3 months to 8 years old.
<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday to Friday 7:30 am – 6:00 pm.
<b>Operating Language of the service</b>	Welsh
<b>Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection</b>	19 December 2017
<b>Dates of this inspection visit(s)</b>	05 December 2019
<b>Is this a Flying Start service?</b>	Yes
<b>Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service?</b>	No
<b>Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?</b>	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.
<b>Additional Information:</b>	

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