



Childcare Inspection Report on

Cylch Meithrin Hywel Dda

**Ysgol Llys Hywel
Market Street
Whitland
SA34 0QB**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

11/06/2019

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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 Hywel Dda provides a full day care service for a maximum of 19 children. They operate from a self-contained building in the grounds of Ysgol Llys Hywel in the town of Whitland and the hours of operation are 8.55am to 2.55pm, Monday to Thursday during term time only. The care is provided through the medium of Welsh. The registered persons are Jayne Williams and Christine Thomas. Jayne Williams is also the person in charge.

Summary

Theme	Rating
<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

1. Overall assessment

Children attending Cylch Meithrin Hywel Dda are happy and enthused by their learning experiences. They are cared for by knowledgeable, nurturing and consistent staff who are committed to meeting their individual needs. They benefit from a thoughtfully planned, extremely child-centred service. The children are happy and evidently enjoy their time here. Parents are happy with their children's progress and the service that is provided.

2. Improvements

Since the previous inspection, the service has received a community grant which allowed them to purchase new books. They have also purchased a new mud kitchen.

3. Requirements and recommendations

None

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 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 to spend their time and are involved in the planning of activities. Children moved freely between the activities that had been set out and they also selected toys from around the room that they wished to play with.

They confidently speak and express themselves. Children had a say in the planning of activities as their ideas were written down on paper. Children were asked several times during the morning session if they wanted to play outside, but nobody wanted to as it was raining. Children from the afternoon session wanted to play outside and did so.

Children feel very 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. They chatted animatedly to us and to each other as they played, even those who had recently started at the service. All children confidently explored the room which showed that they felt comfortable in their surroundings and in the staff's company.

Children interact positively as they are developing skills that enable them to work together. For example, they played co-operatively with each other and helped each other, such as when they were tidying away toys. They confidently asked for help from staff if they needed it and smiled proudly as they received praise for recognising letters. Children are learning to become polite and good mannered. Children were chatty and polite and demonstrated that they were learning good table manners by saying 'please' when they wanted help, and 'thank you' when given snack, often without prompting.

Most children are motivated and engaged in their play and enjoyed doing the movements to songs as they pretended to be a seed growing from the ground. Children sang along to background music as they played in the home corner. Children made birthday cakes in the sand tray and put straws in as candles as they had recently celebrated 'Dewin's' birthday. Children shrieked in excitement as they ran underneath the rainwater which was running down the pipe, and jumped in puddles.

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 be creative and develop physical development

through dance and movement. For example, children made themselves into a bridge and other children could go underneath. Children showed that they could undertake tasks themselves as they ably used the toilet and washed their hands. The helper of the day helped prepare snack and handed out plates and cups for everyone. Children have daily opportunities to play outdoors on the school yard, wooded area or on the wooden climbing area.

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. They had completed safeguarding training and knew who to contact in the relevant agencies if they had concerns. All staff had current first aid qualifications and accident forms showed they had dealt with incidents appropriately. Leaders provided healthy snacks and drinks such as fruit, water or milk. Staff ensured children enjoyed the benefits of playing outside regularly, regardless of the weather. Records of regular fire drills showed that practitioners and children know how to evacuate the premises safely.

Staff manage children's interactions consistently and positively, helping the children to cooperate and learn social skills. They used distraction techniques successfully and praised children often, for example for tidying the toys away. Staff were consistent and reminded children to be kind when they saw any negative behaviour. Staff celebrated children's achievements with hugs, stickers 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. Staff promoted the development of all children by planning and providing good play and learning experiences. They effectively promoted the Welsh language as the children understood what was said and responded in Welsh. Parents told us that they were pleased at how quick their children had picked up the Welsh language since attending the service.

3. Environment

Good

Summary

The environment is spacious, light, colourful and safe. The quality and variety of the resources are good. Leaders provide a clean, secure and safe environment and risk assessments ensure all practitioners are aware of how to keep children safe. They ensure children are supervised well both inside and outside.

Our findings

Leaders ensure that the environment is safe and secure and children are supervised well. The main entrance and the gate was locked and visitors were allowed in by staff who verified their identity before signing the visitor's log. All areas inside and outside were hazard free and leaders completed risk assessments successfully. Staff recorded children and staff arrival and departure times daily. Regular fire drills were carried out and we saw records of who was present and any issues presented.

Leaders provided a child friendly and interesting 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. Pictures of the children and their work were attractively displayed. Children had access to a large outdoor area to the side of the building, which included a large grassed area and a wooded area.

Leaders had ensured children had access to a range of good quality, 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, in good order and stored in labelled boxes at child height. Equipment and furniture was suited to the ages of children attending.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

Leadership is very effective. The registered person, who is also the person in charge, strive to provide a high quality service. Policies and procedures are available and regularly reviewed. Self-evaluation shows that improvements are made. Leaders manage staff well and they ensure they have sufficient ongoing training, support and resources. Partnerships with parents and the local community are very effective and benefit children and their families.

Our findings

Leaders set achievable expectations to promote improvement and good outcomes for children. There was consistent practice throughout the service and the long standing staff worked well as a team. Leaders complied with the National Minimum Standards and regulations and demonstrated confidence in their roles and responsibilities. The Statement of Purpose is accurate and is a true reflection of what the service offers.

Leaders have complied a quality of care review and had taken into account parents, children and staff views. Leaders have plans to raise money to build a sheltered outdoor area for the children. We saw records of staff supervisions and annual appraisals. All staff files showed there was a robust recruitment system in place.

Leaders told us that they have established excellent partnerships with parents, the local school and the community. Leaders arranged visits to local farms and shops, visits into the service from the fire brigade and ambulance. The service has good links with the school to ensure a smooth transition into school. Leaders had arranged language and play sessions for children and their parents to help promote the Welsh language. Parents told us that leaders and staff know their children so well, and keep in regular contact regarding events held at the service or in relation to their child. Parents told us they particularly liked the 'home school' packs which children take home and do activities for different learning areas.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

None

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. Two inspectors undertook one announced visit to the service on 11 June 2019 for a total of four and half hours. Feedback was given over the telephone on the 19 June for a total of 30 minutes. As part of the inspection we:

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

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	Jayne Williams Christine Thomas
Person in charge	Jayne Williams
Registered maximum number of places	19
Age range of children	2 – 3 years
Opening hours	Monday to Thursday 8.55am – 2.55pm Term time only.
Operating Language of the service	Welsh
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	11 October 2016
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	11 June 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:	

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