



Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Rhydypennau

**Y Caban
Ysgol Rhydypennau
Bow Street
Aberystwyth
SY24 5AD**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

18/06/2021

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About Cylch Meithrin Rhydypennau

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Laura Blakemore
Registered places	15
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert 17 October 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert 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.

Summary

Children are confident, happy and enjoy their time at Cylch Meithrin Rhydypennau. They have a lovely sense of belonging and develop positive relationships and friendships. Children have good choices and make effective decisions about what they want to do. Children's interactions are warm, and they express enthusiasm and enjoyment in their activities. They feel settled and safe, forming strong bonds of affection with care staff.

Most care staff fully understand and implement policies and procedures to keep children safe. They are well qualified and are kind towards children, providing positive interactions to ensure they feel valued and happy. Care staff ensure children's needs are fully met. They assess children's abilities, providing activities promoting independence and individual progress.

People who run this setting have measures in place to ensure the environment is safe and secure. There are play areas available for children to play indoors and outdoors. They ensure the environment meets the needs of children and enables them to access a good range of age and stage appropriate resources to stimulate their imagination and interest.

People who run the setting are new to the role, and have an innovative vision for the service and manage it relatively well. They ensure care staff are supported. The system for care staff supervision and appraisal is not in place as of yet.

Welsh is the main language used and the service provides the Welsh Language 'active offer'.

Well-being

Children are happy, express enthusiasm and enjoy their time at the setting. They have good bonds of affection with the staff. Children are familiar with one and other and have friends. They play happily together or alongside each other. For example, there is lots of laughter as children are engaging in an activity in the role play area indoors. Most children speak or express themselves confidently, communicating their needs in a variety of ways and know that staff will listen and respond appropriately. Children have some opportunities to make decisions for themselves, for example, choosing which activities to play with and who to sit next to during snack time.

Children have a strong sense of belonging. They know the routines well, even with the added cleaning and hygiene practices linked to Covid-19. They wash their hands at appropriate times and help tidy toys away after use. They have strong bonds of affection with care staff and enjoy sitting close to them as well as on their lap during activity time. For example whilst dressing the dolls on the carpet area indoors and during story time outdoors.

Children are enthusiastic and gain a sense of achievement from their play and learning. They enjoy an adequate range of opportunities. Children participate and concentrate on self-chosen activities and in staff led tasks for appropriate periods of time. For example, painting cut outs of buckets as well as completing Father's day cards. In another area, one child is fully engaged in looking at a book. Children eagerly show us Father's day cards they have created.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them do things for themselves successfully, for example using the step to access the sink to wash their hands as well as tidying toys and resources. They use the toilet and wash their hands independently and are aware of the importance of regular hand washing. Children are naturally motivated to freely choose their play and move confidently from one activity to another. Children gain a sense of pride from their achievements, and smile as they receive praise from care staff.

Care and Development

Most care staff fully understand and implement policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles and personal safety. They mostly follow and implement the protective measures guidance, policies and risk assessments. They clean and sanitise equipment daily/weekly as well as rotating the limited resources available. They do not always follow cleaning routines thoroughly, for example, they did not clean the table prior to food. Hand washing practices happen thoroughly and frequently with care staff encouraging children or supporting them to do the same.

All care staff have current training in child protection and up to date first aid. They log relevant records of accidents, incidents and medication clearly, however some parents and care staff signatures are missing. Discussion with care staff demonstrate that most understand the need for good safeguarding practice, however not all staff members were aware of The Prevent Duty or the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against the person in charge. Care staff follow the nappy changing procedure as outlined in the policy, and wear gloves and aprons when seeing to the children's personal needs and when serving food.

Experienced and qualified staff care for children effectively and meet their individual needs well. They consistently implement positive behaviour management strategies so children know what the expectations are. They use praise to reinforce good behaviour. We did not observe any unwanted behaviour. Care staff are consistently responsive. They listen to children's views and interact with children with warmth and kindness.

Care staff agree a theme and plan some activities suitable for children, however they do not incorporate areas of learning and skills into the planning. Care staff told us they assess children's progress, however we did not see evidence of this during our visit.

Care staff told us they are well supported and work well as part of the team. Care staff use Welsh with children whilst taking part in activities such as counting and when giving praise and instructions.

Environment

People who run the service ensure the environment is safe, secure, and well maintained indoors and outdoors. Staff control entry to the premises by ensuring the entrance gate is locked. The outdoor area has secure fencing. Thorough safety measures ensure access to and from the setting is secure and children are safe because no-one can enter or exit the setting without being admitted by a member of staff. Staff also record maintenance checks and keep a list of visitors to the cylch meithrin. Not all safety checks on the equipment are up to date, for example the PAT testing needs updating. The person in charge told us that this was not in place due to the pandemic. The person in charge had risk assessments in place during the inspection visit and these had been updated to include Covid-19 measures. The food prep area was kept clean and tidy.

People who run the setting ensures there are thorough cleaning routines to maintain good hygiene practices and infection control methods. New and revised policies are in place to reduce the spread of infection due to Covid-19.

The school carries out monthly fire drills, however the care staff do not always record them. We viewed one fire drill record.

People who run the setting have developed the outdoor area to provide a learning space and opportunities for children to explore. These include construction play, climbing equipment, role play and an area to play ride-on toys. It includes an outdoor all weather area. They have also created a multi-sensory area using bark, stones and plants.

People who run the setting ensure that all children have access to a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources, in sufficient quantity, to ensure children have good variety and choice. They provide stimulating resources for all ages and stages of development to develop personal and social, language and mathematical skills through construction play, sensory activities, small world and role play activities. Children can access toys and resources easily, as they are stored at low level or within their reach.

Leadership and Management

People who run the setting are new to the role and are committed to ongoing improvements. They have an innovative vision for the future of their business, which they share with parents and carers of children. People who run the setting ensure all the required policies and procedures are in place and mostly reflect current practice. The person in charge told us that they are in the process of reviewing their policies and procedures. During the visit, they did not fully comply with regulations and the National Minimum Standards as they had failed to inform CIW of changes in leadership, the statement of purpose did not include all the information required and there wasn't a system in place for all staff to receive supervision and appraisal. People who run the setting manage care staff well and ensure that they are deployed in an organised way, so that staffing ratios and children's needs are fully met.

People who run the setting follow thorough recruitment processes to safeguard children. They ensure all staff have up to date suitability checks, provide a good induction procedure for new staff and promote ongoing training for professional development of all staff. We did not view documentation for the newly appointed person in charge during the visit as these were stored electronically. The registered person confirmed all suitability checks and documents were in place. Care staff members told us they felt well supported. Performance management is not effective at present as not all staff receive regular one-to-one supervision and annual appraisals. The registered person informed us that they have identified training development for all staff. The self-evaluation is purposeful and is a tool for creating an action plan for the year ahead. People who run the setting make arrangements to enable parents, staff and children to share their views. They take account any issues raised, record and respond appropriately.

Children's files contain information to ensure the most appropriate care for them, however there were some permissions that parents had not completed fully. People who run the setting ensure they share information about the children daily with parents verbally. We did not receive any feedback from parents of children using the service.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1: to keep a record of all fire drills

R2: to plan activities using areas of learning and incorporate skills

R3: to keep records of observations of children's development

R3: to update the PAT testing

R4: to wipe all surfaces prior to serving food

R5: to provide further safeguarding training for all staff members

R6: to ensure all records are completed fully, for example children's permissions, accident and incident records

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

the statement of purpose does not contain all the information required by regulations and national minimum standards.	
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The registered person does not carry out regular supervision and annual appraisals with all staff members.	
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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