Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
Child Minding and Day Care (Inspection and Information for Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2010
The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010

Inspection Report

The Magic Cottage

19/20 Princetown
Rhymney
NP22 3AE

Type of Inspection – Focussed
Date(s) of inspection – 19th March 2013
Date of publication – 18 June 2013

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Summary

About the service
The Magic Cottage nursery is a small homely provision registered to care for 20 children. The Responsible Individual is Claire Harris. She is also the Person in day to day charge (PiC). They operate from a small cottage attached to the owner's home, which has also been partially registered to provide care. The language used is English with some use of incidental Welsh.

What type of inspection was carried out?
This was a scheduled focussed unannounced inspection undertaken on 19th March 2013. This report is based on the following:
- Self Assessment of Service Statement (SASS).
- Two questionnaires returned from staff.
- Viewing of a sample of children’s development records.
- Observations of staff caring for the children in during the late morning and lunchtime period.
- Prior knowledge of the setting.
- Discussions with the Responsible Individual (RI)/ Person in charge (PIC) and staff.

What does the service do well?
The provider works well with CSSIW to maintain the regulations.
Staff training is well supported.
A homely, happy and relaxed atmosphere was evident.

What has improved since the last inspection?
Rooms have been decorated.

What needs to be done to improve the service?
There were no non compliance issues identified at this visit. However there were some good Practice issues addressed:
- The fencing to the outside plays space needs repairing to enable the children daily access to outside play.
- As cots have now moved to upstairs, the introduction of a 'logging' sheet for the times the babies are checked by staff would be beneficial.
- Also the owner’s idea of a viewing mirror should be implemented for the cot room.
- The complaints procedure needs to be updated to reflect CSSIW’s revised approach to managing public concerns about registered settings.
Quality of life

Overall, we (CSSIW) found that children are cared for in a warm, friendly and nurturing environment and that they have access to a wide range of interesting and age appropriate activities.

Children were given opportunities to learn, be active, positively occupied and stimulated. It was observed that staff spent time guiding children in their activities. We saw children enjoying action rhymes with staff guidance and support. All children present were 2 years and under some children enjoyed playing with cars and garages with support from staff others played with musical instruments and wooden puzzles. Following lunch children had the play equipment changed to ensure they had variety during the day. During the afternoon session the children were enjoying play with a pop up tent, staff were seen to sit on the floor with the children engaging in the activity. Staff were seen chatting to children at their level and the children responded with smiles and chatter. Occasionally children sat on staff laps for cuddles and staff supported children with activities as needed. Throughout the session there was lots of fun and laughter.

We saw photographs of children enjoying a range of activities indoors and out. The room was set out with a range and choice of activities for children to experience play in all areas of learning. Planning, observations and assessments were seen to be completed. Planning included different festivals of events which included Chinese New Year and St Patrick’s day. Displays of art and craft work were displayed on the wall.

Children experienced warmth, attachment and belonging. Children were happy, relaxed and interacted well with each other and staff. Staff were observed guiding, praising and encouraging children in their activities and children responded positively with smiles and chatter. We saw staff checking their nappies and taking them to be changed when necessary, we saw the children cuddled caringly by staff who chatted with them as they put them to bed for a sleep. The physical wellbeing of the children was seen to be met. Children were offered nutritious varied meals and snacks. Lunch time was busy in the setting as some children left and others arrived. But staff were seen to give each child and parent time ensuring that they left knowing what their child had done during they time at nursery. We saw staff reassure a grandparent who’s grandchild was a little clingy. These times were not rushed and handled with sensitivity by staff who understood the needs of the child. The lunch provided was a sausage and pasta dish, which the staff said the children loved, this was evident and many children had second helpings. There was a sample menu displayed in the setting.

Staff sat with the children and helped them to feed themselves as necessary. Staff and children chatted together at these meals. Children received support to maintain hygiene, we saw children encouraged by staff to wash their hands before lunch. Noses were wiped as needed and staff talked to the children soothingly explaining to children that they needed their nose wiped.
### Quality of staffing

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life as CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the quality of staffing on this occasion as sufficient qualified and experienced staff are employed at the nursery.

However, we noted that staff were warm and caring with the children and in turn, children were observed to be at ease and confident in interacting with staff. Staff turnover is generally low at the nursery and this provides a continuity of care for the children. Since the last inspection however, two members of staff had left. However numbers of children are currently low and as the Registered Person had achieved her level 3 qualification in childcare she was now registered as the Person in Charge. There is a named deputy who has been in the setting since it registered.
Quality of leadership and management

This inspection focussed on the Quality of Life theme and CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the Quality of Leadership and Management on this occasion because this setting has a history of regulatory compliance.

Parents can feel confident that the service is well managed. The Registered Person confirmed that she maintains all records as required by the regulations and operates the service in line with the National Minimum Standards. There was a quality of care review report in place.

This theme will be considered fully at future inspections
### Quality of environment

This inspection focussed on the theme Quality of Life and CSSIW did not consider it necessary to fully look at the Quality of Environment on this occasion.

However, we did note during the inspection that the nursery was freshly decorated and well maintained, with no observable safety hazards to the inside. However, due to extremely bad weather and strong winds the outdoor fencing had blown down and should be replaced to allow the children daily access to outside play. The Registered Person confirmed that risk assessments are in place and are regularly reviewed. Additionally, she said that all checks for the maintenance of the fire, gas and electrical systems in the building are up to date.

This theme will be considered fully at future inspections.
How we inspect and report on services

We conduct two types of inspection; baseline and focussed. Both consider the experience of people using services.

- **Baseline inspections** assess whether the registration of a service is justified and whether the conditions of registration are appropriate. For most services, we carry out these inspections every three years. Exceptions are registered child minders, out of school care, sessional care, crèches and open access provision, which are every four years.

  At these inspections we check whether the service has a clear, effective Statement of Purpose and whether the service delivers on the commitments set out in its Statement of Purpose. In assessing whether registration is justified inspectors check that the service can demonstrate a history of compliance with regulations.

- **Focussed inspections** consider the experience of people using services and we will look at compliance with regulations when poor outcomes for people using services are identified. We carry out these inspections in between baseline inspections. Focussed inspections will always consider the quality of life of people using services and may look at other areas.

Baseline and focussed inspections may be scheduled or carried out in response to concerns.

Inspectors use a variety of methods to gather information during inspections. These may include;

- Talking with people who use services and their representatives
- Talking to staff and the manager
- Looking at documentation
- Observation of staff interactions with people and of the environment
- Comments made within questionnaires returned from people who use services, staff and health and social care professionals

We inspect and report our findings under ‘Quality Themes’. Those relevant to each type of service are referred to within our inspection reports.

Further information about what we do can be found in our leaflet ‘Improving Care and Social Services in Wales’. You can download this from our website, Improving Care and Social Services in Wales or ask us to send you a copy by telephoning your local CSSIW regional office.