Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

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

Sychdyn Kids Club

Sychdyn CP School
Vownog Road
Sychdyn
CH7 6ED

Type of Inspection – Baseline
Date(s) of inspection –29 March 2016
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Summary

About the service

Sychdyn Kids Club, located at Sychdyn C.P School is registered with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) to care for a maximum of forty eight children for the after school club which presently runs from 3.00pm to 5.30pm Monday to Friday during term time and the holiday club which is open all day during school holidays. The club uses a mobile classroom in the school playground and the school hall. There is sufficient secure storage for records and equipment on site. Children can choose to play indoors or outdoors during each session.

The service provided is mainly through the medium of English with Welsh promoted as a second language.

The registered persons for this setting are Kerry Hooson, Nicola Wood and Keith Lucking.

What type of inspection was carried out?

This was an unannounced baseline inspection which considered the quality of life, quality of staffing, quality of leadership and management and the quality of the environment for the children. The inspection took place between 10.45am and 1.00pm.

Information for this report was gathered from:

- A previous knowledge of the setting
- Examination of a wide range of written documentation including the statement of purpose, policies and procedures and children's records
- Observation of the activities and procedures taking place.
- Observing the overall happiness of the children present during the inspection
- Observation of the use of the environment and the furnishings and equipment available for children to use
- Speaking to the staff
- Speaking to the children.

What does the service do well?

The club has good processes in place to ensure that children have a say in what activities they do and how the club is run. This is done through informal discussions and meetings that are led by the children.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the previous inspection the club has moved into a new mobile classroom. It is still situated on the school playground but is more suitable for the children and staff. There is a larger kitchen area, cloakroom, toilets and a large open space where children can play and take part in activities.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of non compliance identified during this Inspection.

There were no good practice recommendations.

Quality Of Life

Children receive care that enhances their quality of life and gives them an opportunity to learn and be sociable.

Parents and children have a voice and can influence the way the club is run in many different ways. Parents are invited to be part of the committee and fill in questionnaires sent out by the club. Children also reply to questionnaires, have regular meetings with staff and informal conversations which allow them to speak up and have a say in how they are cared for and what activities they want to do. During the inspection children and staff were heard discussing where they would like to go for a trip in the summer. There is also a suggestion box which allows children to write down ideas they have for improving the club. This shows that children come first and there opinions are valued.

Children have opportunities to learn and be positively occupied through having access to a range of toys and games. There are also adult led, planned activities taking place that the children can choose to take part in. Children are encouraged to be active and have constant access to outside throughout the session. There was a range of toys and activities available outside including bikes and ball games. Children were observed taking part in an Easter egg hunt which some of the older children had organised. This gave all the children a sense of achievement and kept them stimulated as it was suited to their age and stage of development. It also helped the children form relationships, with the older children helping the younger ones if needed. This social development is encouraged further because the club is open to children from other local schools. This promotes their social and communication skills.

Cleanliness is promoted through the children being encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after being outside. The medical needs of the children are catered for through forms being completed by parents as part of the registration process. These outline any specific needs the children may have. Any allergies are displayed in the kitchen so that all staff are aware. The setting currently has a no nuts policy in place for all the children because of several children having allergies.

Children are recognised and valued through staff getting to know each child well and being able to have discussions with them. Children’s work is also on display throughout the room which gives them a sense of belonging.

Parents can be assured that their children receive good quality care. The children were observed experiencing warmth and attachment from staff and other children which meant they were relaxed and very happy to be at the club.

Quality Of Staffing

Parents can be assured that their children are cared for by staff who are committed to making the club a warm and welcoming place where children can learn and develop.

We looked at the returned questionnaires sent out by the club to parents. All those returned said that the staff provided good activities and kept them up to date with what their child had been doing and future events. One comment made by a parent said that their child loves attending which is a testament to the lovely, loyal, playful and helpful staff. All this shows that parents are confident that their children are well cared for.

Children are confident to ask staff when they want something or need some help. We observed a group of children asking to use the clay to create some Easter craft. The staff member was quick to respond and set up a space for them to use the clay. Staff were also willing to play games with the children when asked. We observed lots of positive interaction taking place with staff providing support and encouragement, which helped to develop the children's social and communication skills.

Staff were happy in their work and appraisals showed that they felt appreciated and wanted to make a difference to the lives of the children they cared for. Care is given in a relaxed manner and individual attention can be given to the children because there are enough staff available. This also allows staff to talk to parents when dropping off or collecting their child from the club. The club is equipped well enough to allow staff to plan a range of activities and for them to carry out their duty of care.

Children are cared for by staff who are relaxed, supportive and know the children well. This allows staff to anticipate the children's needs before they ask.

Quality Of Leadership and Management

The club is run by a dedicated leadership and management committee that includes staff, parents and teachers from the school. This ensures everyone is involved and has a say in how the club is run. There are currently three registered persons, two are staff who work at the club and the other is a parent. This allows the club to have a variety of views and opinions about the club and the care provided.

The club produces a very informative handbook that is given to parents when they register their child. The handbook includes registration documents and policies and procedures to ensure everyone has a shared understanding of the care provided.

An annual quality of care review is completed, which takes into account the views of parents and children who use the club. This shows that the club is committed to moving the setting forward year on year and understands the importance of taking account of the views of outside agencies and users of the club.

All required paperwork is up to date and well organised, which allows it to be accessible when required. This shows that the registered persons are aware of and ensure that the national minimum standards and regulations are complied with.

Parents can be assured that the club is well run by a leadership and management team that are striving to offer the best care possible and continue to make improvements whenever needed.

Quality Of The Environment

Children are cared for in an environment that is light, airy, fresh and clean. This means that the children attending feel comfortable and happy.

Since the last inspection the club have been donated a mobile classroom that they now use. The classroom has a better layout than the previous one they were using. It is more open, has a larger kitchen area, a cloakroom space and 2 toilets. The environment provides a sense of familiarity and reassurances, with the children being able to move around freely and choose where they want to go and what they want to do. The toys, games and resources are stored at suitable heights to allow the children to access them and do things for themselves, helping to promote choice and independence. It also allows the children to thrive because there are a variety of toys and games available that are suitable for the age and stage of development of all the children. There is enough space inside to allow the children to move around without disrupting others and allowing them to play on their own or in groups.

There are extensive outdoor areas available for the children to use. These include an enclosed astro turf space which the children were observed using for ball games and ride on toys. There is also a playground, climbing apparatus, grassed area and a forest school available. Children have direct access to these spaces and are able to choose to go outside during every session giving them lots of opportunities to get fresh air and learn about the world around them.

The premises are well maintained and regular checks are done to ensure they are safe and secure. Access to the mobile classroom is through a locked door to ensure strangers cannot enter the premises and all sensitive information is kept in a locked cupboard to ensure confidentiality.

Children’s work is on display throughout the mobile classroom, giving the children a sense of achievement and belonging. There is an information board in the entrance which displays information about the club and allows staff to keep parents up to date with what is going on.

Parents can be sure that their children are cared for in an environment that is warm, welcoming and stimulating and where the children can learn and socialise. Children were observed to be happy to be there and discussions with the children confirmed that they enjoyed the planned activities and toys provided and liked their time at the club.

How we inspect and report on services

We conduct two types of inspection; baseline and focused. 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.

- **Focused 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. Focused inspections will always consider the quality of life of people using services and may look at other areas.

Baseline and focused 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.