Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Incy Wincy Playgroup @ Wats Dyke School Wrexham

Wats Dyke CP School, Wats Dyke Way, Wrexham, LL11 2TE

07936598139

The inspection visit took place on 26/06/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Glenna Harris, Karen Bennett
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	16
Main language(s):	English
Flying Start service:	No
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider is not promoting the Welsh language and culture needs of people, and this requires improvement.

Ratings:

Well-being	Good
Care & Development	Good
Environment	Good
Leadership & Management	Good

Summary:

Overall, children benefit from attending a welcoming, caring and well-organised full day care service where they are happy, settled and actively engaged in their play and learning. Staff have developed warm, nurturing relationships with the children and know them well, enabling them to respond effectively to individual needs while promoting children's confidence, independence and well-being. Children access a varied range of stimulating indoor and outdoor experiences, with opportunities to make choices, explore their interests and develop their skills through play.

Leaders have established appropriate systems to support the safe and effective operation of the service. Comprehensive policies and procedures, effective risk management arrangements and positive communication with parents contribute to children's safety and well-being. Leaders also demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and adapt practice to meet children's needs, as demonstrated during the exceptionally hot weather when they adjusted routines to help keep children safe and comfortable.

Leaders meet the requirements for the management and operation of the service. They have

established effective systems to support the day-to-day running of the setting, supported by an extensive suite of policies and procedures. However, there are some minor areas that need addressing.

Leaders provides a positive environment where children feel secure, enjoy their time with friends and develop through a broad range of play experiences. The caring staff team, effective safeguarding arrangements and child-centred approach contribute to positive outcomes for children.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children appeared happy, settled and confident within the service. On arrival, children were eating lunch, choosing either school meals or packed lunches, and greeted the inspector warmly. They sought reassurance from familiar adults when needed and quickly returned to their play, demonstrating that they felt secure within the setting. Children approached adults confidently to share their achievements, ask for support and engage in conversation. They responded positively to praise and encouragement, showing pride in their accomplishments and increasing confidence in their abilities. Children interacted well with their peers, shared resources, took turns and included others in their play. They moved confidently between activities, demonstrated a strong sense of belonging and remained relaxed and at ease throughout the session.

Children made choices and demonstrated independence throughout the session. They selected where and what they wanted to play with, independently managed personal care routines such as using the toilet and washing their hands before snack, fed themselves, and wore sun hats following reminders from staff due to the exceptionally hot weather. Children confidently selected resources, solved simple problems during play and took responsibility for managing their belongings with minimal support from adults.

The service adapted the day's plans to reflect the high temperatures, ensuring children spent time outdoors in shaded areas and had regular access to drinking water. Children engaged enthusiastically in a variety of activities, particularly enjoying water play with toy fish, digging in the stone area and participating in the "Bug in a Rug" activity, where they remained animated and fully engaged. Staff followed children's interests and provided opportunities for both structured and child-led play. Staff used effective questioning and conversation during activities to extend children's thinking, language and curiosity while allowing them sufficient time to explore their own ideas.

Snack time provided a relaxed social experience. Children carrying out the "Helpwr Heddiw" role helped prepare for snack by laying out mats and tidied away afterwards, including recycling their rubbish. Children brought their own snacks from home and the service had a healthy eating policy in place. However, snacks observed during the inspection did not consistently reflect the principles of the policy, as some items did not promote healthy eating. Children interacted positively with one another during snack and play, demonstrated good manners, shared resources and developed friendships in a calm and welcoming environment.

Care & Development — Good

Leaders and staff had appropriate arrangements in place to promote children's safety and well-being. They maintained comprehensive policies and procedures and reviewed them annually to ensure they remained current and reflected the needs of the setting. Staff completed daily risk assessments and used dynamic risk assessments to inform changes throughout the day. A dedicated risky play area was securely fenced, and the service had obtained parental consent before children accessed this provision. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and confidently described the procedures they would follow if they had concerns about a child's welfare

Staff accurately maintained attendance registers for both children and staff. They completed fire drills regularly and kept records detailing what had worked well and any lessons learned to strengthen emergency procedures. Staff maintained accident records; however, these records did not include a section for parents to acknowledge or sign that they had been informed of accidents. The service stored medication records and emergency contact information securely, and staff could access them readily when required

Staff promoted children's health and hygiene through established routines. They cleaned tables before snack, supported children to wash their hands before eating, and ensured drinking water remained readily available throughout the session. During snack time, children demonstrated independence by pouring their own drinks, selecting healthy food options and tidying away after themselves with minimal support from adults.

Staff interacted with children in a consistently warm, nurturing and respectful manner. They supported children's emotional well-being, encouraged independence and promoted bilingual development by naturally integrating Welsh throughout the session alongside counting in both Welsh and English. Staff listened carefully to children's ideas, responded positively to their interests and provided reassurance and encouragement, helping children to feel valued, secure and confident within the setting.

Environment — Good

The service operated from a designated area within the school and had access to additional indoor and outdoor spaces shared with other year groups. Staff implemented appropriate measures to control access to shared areas and maintain children's safety. Clear routines supported the smooth movement of children between different areas, and staff provided appropriate supervision throughout the session, enabling children to enjoy a range of learning and play opportunities safely

Children accessed welcoming play spaces, including a well-resourced outdoor environment with a range of natural materials that encouraged exploration and imaginative play. Staff stored resources at a low level, enabling children to access them independently. The available space required staff to organise children into smaller groups to access different play areas and resources while maintaining opportunities for free-flow play. Staff organised the environment to promote children's independence, enabling them to make choices about their play and select resources that reflected their interests. Displays celebrating children's work contributed to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere

The service had appropriate security arrangements in place, including a signing-in system for visitors and collection passwords to ensure authorised adults collected children. Toilet facilities were located across the corridor, and children accessed them appropriately. Staff supported children to use these facilities safely and independently when required while promoting good hygiene practices.

The school maintained and cleaned the premises, which the inspector found to be clean, tidy and suitable for the children attending the service. Furniture and equipment were in good condition and were appropriate for the age and stage of the children, creating an environment that supported their comfort, safety and well-being throughout the session.

Leadership & Management — Good

Leaders established appropriate systems to support the day-to-day management of the service and demonstrated a commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for children. The service operated as part of the school and benefited from shared facilities while maintaining designated play spaces. Leaders implemented appropriate systems to promote children's safety, including a visitor signing-in procedure and collection passwords to ensure only authorised adults collected children. They maintained accurate attendance records for both children and staff, providing an effective overview of attendance.

Leaders developed a comprehensive suite of policies and procedures and reviewed them annually to ensure they remained relevant and reflected current practice. Children's records contained the required contracts, permissions and consent forms, including additional parental consent for children accessing the risky play area. Leaders embedded effective risk management arrangements into practice. Staff completed written risk assessments and carried out dynamic risk assessments throughout the day. During the inspection, leaders adapted the daily programme in response to the exceptionally hot weather by increasing opportunities for shaded outdoor play, ensuring drinking water remained readily available and modifying activities to support children's health and well-being.

Leaders demonstrated a positive commitment to celebrating children's experiences and maintaining effective communication with families. They maintained a scrapbook and memory board that captured the wide range of activities, celebrations and experiences children had participated in throughout the year. Parents received regular verbal feedback at collection times, supported by updates through the Seesaw application, enabling them to remain informed about their child's learning, development and daily experiences.

Leaders monitored children's progress through baseline assessments and observations that identified next steps in learning. However, these assessments remained relatively basic and did not fully reflect the principles and expectations of the Curriculum for Wales.

Staff files contained the required recruitment and employment information. However, leaders did not maintain consistent arrangements for staff supervision and annual appraisals. As a result, opportunities to formally reflect on practice, identify professional development needs and monitor staff performance remained limited.

Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.

CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.

National Minimum Standards

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

Standard	Recommendation(s)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

Best Practice

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Recommendation(s)
To ensure that all staff receive regular supervision
To further enhance the recording of observations and to include next steps
To update the recording of accidents to ensure that parents can sign them off

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