Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Ffrindiau Bach Yr Eos

Ysgol Llwyn Yr Eos
Penparcau
Aberystwyth
SY23 1SH

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh

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Date Inspection Completed

09/09/2021

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About Ffrindiau Bach Yr Eos

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Meithrinfeydd Cymru Cyfyngedig
Registered places	19
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	28 November 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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.

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Summary

Children are confident, happy and enjoy their time at Ffrindiau Bach yr Eos. 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.

Care staff 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 fully meet the needs of the children. The children receive care in a safe, clean and secure environment. Care staff have identified and as far as possible eliminated unnecessary risks to children. There is sufficient space and facilities for children to play and learn. The environment promotes children's independence and is well maintained and decorated. People who run the setting manage a well-organised service. They ensure staff actively attend training and development. They manage recruitment processes well. People who run the setting organise care staff and follow their policies and procedures well in order to meet the needs of children. Partnerships are very good. Welsh is the main language used and the service provides the Welsh Language 'active offer'.

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Well-being

Children are happy, express enthusiasm and enjoy their time at the setting. Children arrive confidently at the setting and are relaxed when leaving their parents. They have good bonds of affection with the staff. Children are familiar with one and other and have made friends. They play happily together or alongside each other. For example, the children play nicely together taking turns to put the face back on Mr. PotatoHead. 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 to play freely or an adult led activity or choosing water or milk to drink at 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. Children who are new to the setting approach care staff for comfort and cuddles.

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, some children choose to have their hands painted to use in a printed picture of a butterfly, while others enjoy listening to a story. In another area, one child is fully engaged in playing with the role-play kitchen and eagerly shows us the dinner they prepare. However, at times children's opportunities to be creative is limited and activities are too adult led. For example, children did not use the paintbrush themselves to paint their hands as this was completed for them by care staff.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them do things for themselves successfully. For example, 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. Some children are excited to play outside while others complete a threading activity to develop their fine motor skills. Children gain a sense of pride from their achievements, and smile as they receive praise from care staff.

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Care and Development

Care staff understand their roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe and healthy. They implement appropriate cleaning and hygiene practices. Staff make sure all children wash their hands before eating. They use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to prepare foods for children. They implement the Welsh Government's 'Protective Measures in Childcare Settings' appropriately and follow daily checks and weekly cleaning routines. Care staff sanitise surfaces before lunch and snack times. They wear gloves and aprons to change children and to see to their personal needs and follow their policies to decrease the risk of cross contamination.

Care staff have received current training on safeguarding children, and discussions with care staff demonstrate that they understand the need for good safeguarding practices and understand the correct procedures to follow if they have a child protection concern. The care staff have received the latest training on paediatric first aid. However, the contents of the first aid box contained items that had passed the use by date. Care staff provide healthy snacks and the setting has good food preparation procedures. They hold regular fire drills, ensuring that everyone involved know how to leave the site in an emergency safely. Care staff understand their roles and responsibilities for keeping the children safe and healthy.

Experienced and qualified staff care for children effectively and meet their individual needs well. Care staff understand the behaviour policy and implement behaviour management strategies when needed. They intervene appropriately and calmly when there is a situation where children want the same resources. Care staff manage interactions positively. They praise children consistently and award them with stickers. *"Da iawn, dwylo caredig."*
Care staff demonstrated warmth towards children. They comforted children who were tired, they provided cuddles, which made the children immediately feel at ease.

Care staff work together very well to meet the needs of children effectively. Care staff know the children well, and respond to them in a sensitive way. They know that some children do not like sitting during circle time and they respected this. Care staff meet individual needs, assess children's abilities regularly and identify next steps for the children's learning. During circle time, care staff encourage children to identify different types of weather and days of the week. They promote children's Welsh language development through a variety of songs with gestures and story time.

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Environment

People who run the setting ensure the environment is safe, secure and well maintained. For example, they keep the entrance securely locked, and keep records of visitors. The setting is located next door to the local authority flying start premises and is completely separate from all other personnel working in the building. People who run the setting conduct detailed risk assessments and implement daily checks and cleaning routines. Maintenance and fire checks are up to date. We were unable to view the heating safety certificate. Care staff practise and record regular fire drills.

The indoor play area is welcoming and spacious There is plenty of space for children to wander and explore. There are colourful displays and the care staff are beginning to display the children's work to celebrate their crafts and painting. Care staff respect the privacy and dignity of children, and toileting facilities are available outside the designated play environment, where children are able to develop their independence, supervised by care staff. Care staff provide quiet areas and soft sleep mats are available for children who need to sleep and rest.

The setting is suitable for children's play and learning experiences, and care staff make good use of these areas, offering a variety of experiences. The environment is light, bright and airy. The windows and rear door are open to ensure sufficient ventilation. At the setting, there is one large play space with easy access to toilet facilities. There is a large, secure, decked area for the children to play outdoors. Play and learning areas have sufficient resources to ensure staff can offer stimulating and exciting activities for the children. For example, children have access to cars, slides, bikes, tunnels, skittles, jigsaws, puzzles, dinosaurs and blocks to name a few.

The resources, toys and books are suitable, clean and in good condition, enabling staff to prepare activities confidently. There is a wide variety of toys and resources available to the children however due to covid-19 the setting is currently storing most of these away from the children's level in order to monitor the toy rotation and cleaning schedule of the toys. Care staff currently ensure that they place some of the toys and resources at children's height at the beginning of each session and the children can help themselves to these items.

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Leadership and Management

People running this setting have made adaptions to their service to ensure compliance with Covid-19 regulations and protective measures guidance. They regularly update policies and procedures and implement their procedures effectively. The statement of purpose is fully compliant with regulations and national minimum standards. Ratios of staff to children are correct in order to meet the needs of children. They organise care staff effectively to ensure they know their roles and responsibilities. There are records of children and care staff present on each day. People who run this setting have a good understanding of their responsibilities to protect children.

People who run the setting follow good recruitment processes and ensure suitability checks including DBS checks are in place for all staff. They ensure all staff have timely inductions, supervisions and appraisals, highlighting areas for professional development. Care staff are well qualified and they have up to date mandatory training, such as first aid, child protection, and prevent radicalisation training. Care staff told us they feel fully supported and have good opportunities for professional development. People running the setting inform Care Inspectorate Wales of changes to the service.

People running the setting regularly review the quality of care in the service and the report informs service users of positive changes made. People who run the setting seek feedback from parents, children and staff and include their views in future planning and targets for the service.

Children's files contain information to ensure the most appropriate care for them, including parents' contracts and permissions. People who run the setting ensure they share information about the children daily with parents verbally. Parents talk to staff about their child's care when they drop off or collect their children. There are positive relationships with parents and other professionals, and they contribute to the children's well-being as parents tell staff what their children have particularly enjoyed. Parents told us that they were very satisfied with the service. Parents told us: "*staff go above and beyond for us, they provide speech and language and sensory sessions. My daughter has really taken to her one to one and I feel comfort in knowing how much she loves her, will give her a cuddle and can calm her easily. My daughter's progress has come on leaps and bounds since attending nursery. I can't praise them enough.*"

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Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Ensure that there is an effective system in place for checking the contents of the first aid box.

R2 Ensure that there is a greater balance between child led and adult directed activity.

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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	

Areas where priority action is required	
None	

Areas where improvement is required	
None	

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