Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Clwb Carco Penalltau

Cwm Calon, Penallta, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 6AP

01443820913

The inspection visit took place on 09/06/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Menter Iaith Sir Caerffili
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	24
Main language(s):	Welsh
Flying Start service:	No
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider promotes, anticipates, identifies, and meets the Welsh language and culture needs of people.

Ratings:

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

Summary:

Children are happy, confident and settled in the setting. They make meaningful choices, express their views and know they are listened to. Positive relationships support a strong sense of belonging, while children cooperate well, engage enthusiastically in play and learning, and develop independence and responsibility through everyday experiences.

Staff provide warm, positive care and effectively promote children's safety, well-being and learning. They use skilful behaviour management strategies, communicate purposefully and model respectful relationships. Staff create an engaging environment, plan meaningful experiences, promote the Welsh language consistently and support children's individual needs, interests and independence.

Leaders provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment that supports children's play and learning. Children benefit from access to indoor and outdoor spaces that encourage exploration, independence and physical development. Resources are readily available and support children's interests. Although, some areas of the environment are less suitable for older children.

Leaders demonstrate a suitable commitment to the effective running of the service. They support staff development, seek feedback and maintain positive relationships with parents. Appropriate systems are in place to monitor practice; however, greater consistency is needed to strengthen leadership oversight.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children have valuable opportunities to make choices and decisions throughout the day. For example, they can decide to play outside or inside, following their own interests. They choose where at the table to sit during snack time and decide what they would like to eat. Children have a voice and express themselves positively. Children were observed specifically requesting items and waiting while staff collected them. They are listened to by staff when they express their wishes. For example, when a child asked for more milk, staff responded promptly and met their needs. Older children's opinions are taken into account, and their need to rest and relax is respected.

Children are comfortable in the setting and confidently share their achievements with staff. For example, one child excitedly showed staff a picture they had drawn. They confidently ask for help or seek comfort in staff and appropriate responses are offered. Children have positive relationships with each other and staff. We saw children laugh, smile and giggle whilst playing, happily talking to one another. They know the routine well. Children react to '*amser tacluso'* (tidy up time) demonstrating a sense of belonging and ownership. Their well-being is promoted when staff ask "*sut wyt ti'n teimlo heddi*" (how do you feel today) during the carpet session. Older children communicate naturally with staff, with a sense of belonging. They know who to approach if they need something or feel unsafe.

Children cooperate well with others, seeking support when needed. They share resources and take turns during play such as when selling ice cream and playing with cars. Children work well collectively, carrying a box of toys together at tidy up time. They confidently call and respond to one another, giving safety reminders to children on bikes saying 'ar y trac' (on the track) when outdoors. Older children talk freely and express their views clearly and support each other with respectful communication.

Children are engaged in their play and learning and show interest in what others are doing. They have a sustained interest in activities throughout the setting. Older children engaged in a pizza making session and were pleased when eating their creation.

Children are developing their independence skills well. For example, pouring their drink and serving their snack, as well as emptying food into the food recycling and placing their dishes in the sink. They wash their hands and access the bathroom independently, or with support if needed. They are learning to take responsibility for their belongings by placing their hats and coats on their pegs when returning indoors. Children independently follow safety instructions outdoors by wearing helmets and bibs, considering the safety of their own environment and taking responsibility for themselves. Older children access the setting independently and are further developing life skills during activities such as food preparation.

Care & Development — Good

Staff promote the safety and well-being of children, with effective support and reminders on how to stay safe whilst outdoors. Staff spoken to during the inspection demonstrated a suitable understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities. However, they were less confident in relation to wider safeguarding procedures. Nearly all staff have completed mandatory training, including, safeguarding, paediatric first aid, and food hygiene. However, the food hygiene policy is not being consistently followed by all staff. Mid-afternoon snack is provided to children by the setting and includes healthy options such as a range of fruit as well as pancakes. There are suitable systems in place to meet allergy and dietary needs. There are strong cleaning practices in place. We saw staff clean tables and support children in handwashing prior to meals.

Staff understand behaviour management procedures and implement beneficial and positive strategies. Staff skilfully recognise children's cues and support them to share and resolve difficulties positively. They use positive reinforcement, encouraging children through praise such as ‘da iawn, ti’n gryf’ (you’re strong). They consistently promote good manners and are good role models. Staff communicate successfully, with one another and the children. They show a genuine interest in what children say, listening intently. Staff use language effectively and purposefully to extend children's understanding. Interactions are consistently positive, demonstrating warmth, kindness, and enjoyment.

Staff model how to sit on the carpet, and engage in tasks, playing alongside children. Staff praise and celebrate children’s achievements. For example, when a child showed a rainbow painting, staff acknowledged their hard work. Welsh language is used well and consistently throughout the setting, with staff supporting the learning of new words. Staff create a fun and engaging environment for children to enjoy learning; this was particularly the case when playing outside with a parachute. Activities are carefully planned to allow all older children opportunities to access them during the week. Staff engage and help during tidying up time, promoting its importance and displaying respect for the children. Children’s interests and needs are considered, as they are given sufficient time to finish their snack and drink at their own pace.

Environment — Good

Leaders ensure the environment is safe and secure. Outdoor area gates are secure, with high fencing around the school grounds. The main building entrance is monitored by school staff. The main entrance door has a secure system in place to prevent children from leaving the setting unsupervised.

All visitors sign in upon entrance to the school building. However, arrangements for recording visitors to the setting are not in place. Since the inspection the provider has put a system in place to log visitors of the setting. The setting is suitably maintained. However, issues were identified within areas accessible to children which need to be repaired. The provider has taken action since the inspection and has made us aware that repair work has been undertaken.

There is a general risk assessment in place and setting staff create specific risk assessments when further risks are identified. Staff complete and record daily health, safety and cleanliness checks.

Younger children have the opportunity to practise fire drills regularly. However, older children have not practised fire drills recently. Appropriate fire extinguisher checks remain current. Relevant safety certificates are kept by the leaders. However, these were not available on the day, for inspection.

The setting is light, bright and spacious, allowing children to move and explore in comfort. Younger children's artwork is displayed, encompassing a valuable sense of belonging.

The setting has a designated yard area allowing children to move freely between indoors and outdoors, through the foyer area. The outdoor area provides a safe and beneficial space, providing opportunities for physical play including climbing and sliding. The space within the setting is purposefully designed for younger children; consequently, some furniture and permanent resources, such as seating and activity areas, are less appropriate for older children.

Leaders provide good quality resources, particularly appropriate for younger children's developmental needs. These resources are chosen with purpose and provide opportunities to learn. Children particularly enjoyed using wooden blocks in many different shapes and sized to design a home. Outdoor resources promote both safety and risk-taking, with helmets available for bike riding and stepping stones providing opportunities to develop confidence and balance. Much of the equipment is available to children, so they can choose their interests independently. Many of the resources reflect loose parts and everyday objects.

Leadership & Management — Adequate

Leaders have suitable systems in place to support the running of the service and demonstrate a commitment to improvement. There are experienced persons in charge supported by committed staff. There are clear day-to-day arrangements in place and staff work collaboratively to support children across the provision. Staff tell us they have support from the team and leaders, with regular supervisions and appraisals complete. They complete a broad range of relevant training, with opportunities available for further professional development. Staff state that they are encouraged to share concerns by leaders of the setting.

Children have contracts in place. However, the information recorded for the afternoon and after-school sessions is not consistent. Medication, accident, and incident records are signed by parents and regularly reviewed by leaders to ensure effective monitoring. Leaders have developed a range of policies, procedures and operational documents to support practice. However, some policies and operational documents, including the safeguarding policy, require updating to reflect current arrangements, extended safeguarding procedures, up-to-date legislation, best practice and evidence of regular review.

Leaders engage positively with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). However, they do not consistently notify CIW of significant events within the required timescales. Outcomes for children require improvements because the provider does not notify CIW of all significant events to enable them to make informed regulatory decisions.

Leaders follow suitable recruitment processes to safeguard children, with all regulatory information included. Staff working at the setting have current and up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates. However, on the day of inspection, processes regarding updating a responsible individual's DBS certificate had not been followed in line with CIW guidance and another responsible individual did not hold a valid DBS certificate. The setting has since taken appropriate action to resolve this.

Leaders have self-evaluation systems in place. They seek the views of children and parents. They create a quality of care report which reflects on what they do well, and how they can improve.

Parents are kept informed of their children's development and progress, through pictures on their online application. Feedback indicates that parents value the caring and friendly staff team and feel confident that their children are well cared for in a welcoming environment.

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.

The table(s) below show the area(s) for priority action and/or those for improvement we have identified.

Summary of Areas for Improvement	Date identified

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)
Standard 5 - Records	Maintain consistent information and records relating to children's contracts.
Standard 21 - Notifications of significant events	Notify Care Inspectorate Wales CIW of significant events, including changes to the provision an staff within the setting.
Standard 22 - Environment	Maintain a clear process for reporting environmental concerns and addressing them promptly to safeguard children.
Standard 24 - Safety	Keep appropriate certification relating to environmental checks and ensure these are readily available for inspection by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).
Standard 24 - Safety	Carry out fire drill practices for all groups within the provision.
Standard 12 - Food and drink	Consistently comply with food hygiene practices.
Standard 20 – Safeguarding	Develop a clear safeguarding policy that ensures all staff understand the appropriate external safeguarding procedures.

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)
Regularly review and update all documents and maintain a record of when these reviews are carried out.

Introduce a monitoring system to track DBS status and renewal dates.

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2026.
You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.