Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Playtimextra (Breakfast and After School Club)

Howardian Centre, Hammond Way, Cardiff, CF23 9NB

07547079196

playtimextra.com

The inspection visits for this service took place between 08/09/2026 and 09/09/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Playtimextra Community Interest Company
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	40
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 makes an effort to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture or is working towards a bilingual service.

Ratings:

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

Summary:

Children enjoy their time at Playtimextra and are happy and settled. They have a good voice and make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. Children behave very well and make positive relationships with staff and each other. They have very good opportunities to play, learn and develop.

Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy during the daily operation of the club. They know the children well and encourage positive behaviour successfully. Staff support children's play and learning very well.

Leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure and clean. They provide a wide range of good quality resources and equipment which children enjoy playing with. Children can access a large outdoor area which offers further well resourced, secure play opportunities.

Leaders are dedicated and committed. However, they do not always comply effectively with regulations. Improvements are needed to some aspects of leadership and management to ensure they meet all the requirements of the regulations and National Minimum Standards. Leaders make very good relationships with parents who have provided Care Inspectorate Wales with feedback which indicates they are extremely happy with the service they and their children receive.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children are settled and comfortable at the club. They have a strong voice and are confident in making decisions about how to spend their time as they move freely around the play areas following their interests. Children can choose to play inside or outside for most of the time during the lighter months. They are confident communicators and know they can ask staff for any resources which are not immediately available for them.

Nearly all children arrive happily and settle quickly to play activities of their choice. Those who occasionally find it more difficult to settle receive sensitive support from staff until they are ready to play. Children chat and play readily with staff showing they feel safe and valued. All the children attend the school the club operates from, they are very familiar with routines and the environment and listen to and follow instructions well. This gives them a sense of security and belonging.

Children behave very well. They play together or cooperatively alongside each other chatting with friends, sharing and taking turns. They build positive, friendly relationships with staff and happily approach them for support, to ask for something or to play with them. For example, we saw them playing swing ball or cards together, engaging in craft activities and asking for dressing up clothes.

Children enjoy a good range of play and learning opportunities. They are active learners and initiate their own play from the activities provided. For example, some worked together to create models using small construction blocks, others drew pictures or played games. Children benefit from being able to move freely between indoors and outdoors for much of the time. Many children chose to play outside during our visit where they played ball games, used skipping ropes, created chalk pictures on the ground or built structures with large interconnecting mats.

Children have appropriate opportunities to be independent within the club. They manage their own belongings, including storing them when they arrive and collecting them when they go home. They use the bathroom independently and decide what they want to eat for snack from the selection available. However, there are some missed opportunities to develop independence within snack routines. Doing things for themselves successfully promotes confidence and self-esteem.

Care & Development — Adequate

Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy in the day to day running of the club. However, leaders have not always provided appropriate training or working practices to ensure care of children would be fully effective in all circumstance. There is a mostly suitable safeguarding policy in place to support staff although it had not been updated to reflect the most recent guidance or include guidance on safeguarding children from radicalisation. Leaders have rectified this since the inspection. Staff are confident in knowing who to report any concerns to within their own organisation, however, they are not always as confident in knowing the procedures for reporting to external agencies should they need to. Leaders told us staff have attended safeguarding training within the school but could not evidence this training and it is not clear if it meets the requirements of the National Minimum Standards (NMS). Staff keep accurate attendance registers for children and staff. There are systems for managing and recording accidents, incidents and medication administered. However, accident forms were not signed by parents, and relevant permissions were not always in place to administer some emergency medication should it be needed. Additionally, staff did not record any injuries children may have when they arrive at the club. Since the inspection, leaders have implemented measures to address these matters, and we will test the systems at the next inspection. Although most staff have undertaken some form of first aid training, there are insufficient numbers with full paediatric first aid training to meet the requirements of the NMS which means they may not be able to respond adequately to a medical emergency. Staff follow good hygiene procedures such as sanitising tables and ensuring children wash their hands before eating. They provide largely healthy snacks for children which include fruits and vegetables and there is a system to manage allergies which the provider has strengthened during the inspection. Staff further promote a healthy lifestyle through plenty of outdoor and physical play.

Staff interactions with children are consistently high quality and they are good role models for children. They support children through any upsets with kindness and patience. Staff develop close, caring relationships with children and encourage positive behaviour successfully.

Staff support children's play and learning very well through their interactions and the activities they provide. They plan and provide a good range of play opportunities which children choose for themselves. Staff enjoy being with children and clearly know them well. They enable children to play freely and uninterrupted whilst responding well when children invite them into their activities. They enjoy playing games with children and ensure they are happy and engaged. Staff are aware of any emerging or additional needs children may have and make adaptations to their practice and routines to accommodate them.

Environment — Good

The club operates from two rooms and the hall within the school and leaders ensure the environment is safe, secure and clean. Parents and visitors access the club through the main school entrance which is locked with an intercom entry system. Staff record visitors through the school signing in system. Leaders have a range of suitable risk assessments although they have not recently been reviewed. Staff are aware of safety considerations and they consistently complete daily checks, including for the kitchen. The school is responsible for the maintenance of the building and leaders have access to relevant building safety checks although these were not readily available for inspection. Leaders ensure they carry out and record monthly evacuation drills.

Breakfast club operates from the school hall, and the after-school club operates from two additional rooms, the community room and small hall, which are close together. Younger children are brought to the club and use the community room whilst older children initially arrive to the small hall. There are appropriate spaces for children to store their belongings. Children can access suitable toilet facilities close to their base rooms independently. There is no nappy changing area as leaders told us children in nappies do not usually attend the club. However, they could use the school changing facilities if they needed to. Staff have use of a kitchen off the community room for food storage and preparation.

There is ample room for children to move around freely and play, although there is not an area where they can relax or rest comfortably. Both rooms have use of canteen style tables and seating. The community room has a good range of toys and resources, many of which children can access independently. Additional resources are stored in cupboards within the room and children know they can ask for anything they want. The small hall is set up daily with games and appropriate resources for older children and is used later in the session for snack. Children can access the school playground directly from the community room and most chose to play outside during our visit. The outside area is large and well resourced. There is a resource shed which children can access independently or ask for the games and equipment they want. Leaders told us that during darker months they set up much more for the older children in the small hall and will organise activities such as construction block challenges.

Leaders ensure toys, resources and equipment are of good quality and meet the needs and interests of the children. There are enough resources such as amounts of small construction blocks or arts and craft resources to ensure children have plenty to use and share. Children do not access the internet or electronic devices at the club and greatly enjoy playing the wide range of games available to them.

Leadership & Management — Adequate

Leaders are dedicated, enthusiastic and committed to providing high-quality care. However, they do not always comply effectively with regulations, and the NMS. As a result, improvements are needed to some aspects of their leadership and management. Leaders maintain a good statement of purpose which has been updated during the inspection. There is a suitable range of policies to support the smooth and safe running of the setting. However, some of these have not been updated to reflect current guidance or information.

Leaders carry out a review of their service annually. They seek the views of parents, children and staff through a variety of means and produce a suitable report of their review. Leaders make some evaluation of their service in relation to the impact they have on outcomes for children and identify appropriate areas they would like to continue to develop or improve.

Leaders have appropriate recruitment procedures. They ensure all staff have necessary checks such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and references. However, some documentation to evidence staff suitability was not available during our first visit. All staff files were complete at our second visit. Leaders and staff work very well together. Staff told us they enjoy working at the club and feel well supported. Leaders provide staff with adequate annual appraisals and induction training and have regular staff meetings. However, they have not provided staff with regular one to one supervision meetings which limits opportunities to reflect individually on practice and improve the quality of care. This was an area for improvement at the last inspection, it remains an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders and staff develop very good relationships with the school and parents. They gather necessary information and permissions so they can provide for children's individual needs. They keep parents informed about what they do daily through a variety of means such as verbally, email, texts and a closed social media page. Care Inspectorate Wales has received numerous feedback surveys from parents; all are very happy and state they and their children receive excellent service from the club.

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
Outcomes for children may be at risk because staff do not receive appropriate one to one supervision which limits their opportunities to reflect on and improve practice.	19/06/23

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 20 - Safeguarding	Ensure all staff are confident with reporting safeguarding concerns to external agencies and have safeguarding training appropriate to their roles which can be evidenced.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure staff have paediatric first aid training relevant to their role.
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Regularly review policies and other documentation such as risk assessments, to ensure they reflect current guidance and practice.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure evidence of relevant building safety checks is available for 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)
Consider developing ways to increase children's independence within snack routines.
Records relating to accidents and injuries should be shared with and signed by parents.
Consider developing an area where children can rest or relax comfortably.

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