Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Porthmadog

Ysgol Eifion Wyn
Porthmadog
LL49 9NU

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

18/10/2024

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2024.
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.

About Cylch Meithrin Porthmadog

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Meithrin Porthmadog
Registered places	19
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 April 2024
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service anticipates, identifies, and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use the service.

Well-being	**Good**
Care and Development	**Adequate**
Environment	**Good**
Leadership and Management	**Adequate**

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are considered. They have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Children cope well with separation from their parents / carers because consistent daily transitions recognise and support their individual needs. They are active and express enthusiasm and enjoyment in their play and learning experiences. Children have a sense of belonging, forming relationships and are familiar with the daily routines. Interactions between children and staff are consistently good and children co-operate well. Children have freedom to safely explore their indoor and outdoor environments and are developing their independence well.

Staff have improved their understanding on how to keep children safe and healthy. They have a warm and kind approach to care giving. Staff organise appropriate play and learning experiences.

The people running the setting ensure the environment is welcoming, clean and well maintained both indoors and outdoors. They make sure toys, resources and furniture are age appropriate and of good quality. The indoor and outdoor areas are well organised and have a variety of resources and equipment to develop children's physical, creative and imaginative skills well.

The people running the setting have made significant improvements since our last inspection to create better outcomes for children. They manage the setting appropriately. However, improvements are required to meet with regulations and standards.

Well-being Good

Children are confident communicators and express themselves well. They enjoy showing and talking about what they like to play with. For instance, a child showed delight in presenting their play dough creations and spoke about them confidently. Children proudly showed and talked about the items of clothes they were wearing. Their requests to staff for more drinks are responded to straight away and this makes children feel valued.

Children are happy and content. They settle quickly as they are greeted in a friendly way by staff. Children are familiar with the daily routines and show how they wash and dry their hands before mealtimes and after using the toilet. They prepare themselves well for outdoor play and collect their personal items before home time. Children approach staff with ease and enjoy sitting on their knee to have a story read to them. A child was made to feel relaxed and comfortable while having their nappy changed and chatted along happily with staff.

Children interact positively with their friends and those caring for them. They enjoy the social occasion of mealtimes and sit at the table nicely practicing good manners. Children are learning to take turns, share and co-operate well. For instance, children shared the containers in the sand tray, took turns to climb the wooden apparatus and co-operated well to tidy up their toys. A child happily used a toy hoover to clean up the spilled sand from their play. Children work together well as a team. For example, friends enjoyed using the large construction bricks to build a tower at the base of the outdoor slide and laughed as their friend whizzed down the slide and knocked over the tower.

Children are active and curious learners. They enjoy developing their imagination in the home corner. For example, friends enjoyed arranging the food props and placed them in the re-cycled microwave oven. They blew on the food, pretending it was hot before presenting to staff. Children enjoy developing their creative skills. For instance, a child considered how they would sculpt the play dough to make an elephant and used conkers as ears. A child experimented with scooping sand into a sieve and enjoyed holding the sieve up, giving it a gentle tap to see the effects of the sand draining. During outdoor play, children enjoy chasing one another around the yard and practising their pedalling on trikes. They take their time to practise manoeuvring skills on scooters and bikes around re-cycled tyres with precision.

Children are developing their independence skills well. They enjoy making decisions and following their own interests. For example, a child sustained concentration as they worked out which colours they could create on the electronic light board. A child proudly used the potty independently and celebrated their achievement with staff. Children are learning to do things for themselves with positive encouragement from staff.

Care and Development — Adequate

Staff know children well and have a warm and friendly approach to care giving.

Staff have improved their understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. They promote healthy lifestyles appropriately, encouraging children to eat fruit, drink milk or water and develop their physical skills while playing in the fresh air. They encourage children to wash their hands which helps them to develop their personal hygiene practice effectively.

Most staff have completed mandatory training in safeguarding suitable for the age ranges of children cared for and the current person in charge has completed suitable first aid training. Following our visit the responsible individual confirmed further staff have been registered for first aid training in the new year. Staff have improved their understanding of safeguarding procedures and about implementing the safeguarding policy appropriately. They provide vigilant supervision of children throughout their play and learning activities. For example, staff have improved the mealtime arrangements and sit with children at the table so they can eat and socialise together. Staff implement most policies and procedures suitably. However, although nappy changing procedures have improved, not all staff are following the current infection control guidance fully. For example, a staff member did not dispose of their gloves after changing a child's nappy and before dressing them. The staff member noted the error straight away and confirmed they would not do this again in order to avoid the risk of cross contamination. Staff conduct fire drills, and the outcome is recorded to aid future improvements in practice.

Staff have improved the recording of accident and incidents, and these have been acknowledged by parents / carers to evidence they have been kept informed. However, staff are not making sure all parents / carers are including the date of when they have been informed. Staff have improved the recording of children's daily attendance and record their own daily hours of attendance, to have a clear audit of who is caring for children during those times. Staff have improved their recording of wider safeguarding concerns but do not always record in full what action has been taken and if the matter is being monitored or has been resolved. During our visit staff acknowledged this and addressed the matter immediately by including further information in the records.

Staff are responsive and sensitive to children's individual needs. For example, when a child became unsettled the staff member comforted the child and responded to their request for their drink bottle from home straight away. Staff praise children for their efforts consistently. For instance, during snack time they praised a child for peeling their banana and this made the child feel proud. When children show persistent unwanted behaviours staff are responding sensitively and work in partnership with parents / carers and professionals to put appropriate strategies and a support plan in place.

Staff organise appropriate learning and play experiences for children. During activities staff ask children questions to extend their thinking. For instance, during a playdough activity, staff led a lively discussion about the size and weight of the playdough balls and children responded well. Staff respond in a timely manner when children invite them into their play and lots of fun was had when a child asked staff to roll the playdough ball they had made between their legs as they sat on the floor. Staff explained they are at the early stages of developing a system to track and record children's development and progress. They have begun by creating a display of children's achievements. Staff have a responsive approach to activity planning and showed records of their weekly meetings where they share suggestions for activities, but this is at the early stages of being embedded fully into practice.

Environment — Good

The people running the setting provide a welcoming, secure, and clean environment where children can play and learn independently.

The people running the setting have completed risk assessments to appropriately identify the potential hazards to children and what measures are in place to manage these risks. Information is available to everyone about how they will deal with emergencies. The content of the first aid box is up to date.

The people running the setting make sure the layout of the playroom promotes children's independence enabling them to freely explore and make their own choices about with what they want to play. There is a designated area for children to store their personal items. The people running the setting have created a lovely display of photographs showing children and their families and this helps to create a sense of belonging. They organise children's artwork attractively and this shows children their efforts are valued. Toys and resources are of good quality, suitable for the ages cared for and children have access to appropriately sized furniture.

The people running the setting have organised areas of learning well to develop children's knowledge, natural curiosity, and interests. There are natural and re-cycled resources to develop children's sensory, language, numeracy, and self-awareness skills. Cosy areas are creatively presented, inviting children to have a rest and take interest in reading books. The people running the setting make sure the indoor storage of equipment and resources are suitable and accessible to children. The people running the setting have introduced toys and resources to raise children's awareness about their wider society and cultures but are not fully considering how these are being used during the session to help raise children's knowledge effectively.

The outdoor play area encourages children to be active in the fresh air. There is a good variety of climbing apparatus, pedal vehicles, throwing, catching and sensory equipment to develop children's physical and creative skills well.

Leadership and Management — Adequate

The people running the setting manage the setting suitably and have made significant improvements to create better outcomes for children. However, improvements are required to meet with regulations and standards.

The statement of purpose contains the required information and provides parents / carers with the information about what the setting offers. Policies and procedures are in place and these have been reviewed and contain reference to current Welsh legislation and guidance. The people running the setting notify CIW of any significant events. The responsible individual has not submitted the most recent assessment of service to CIW. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. The people running the setting have a good understanding of their responsibilities to actively promote the Welsh language and culture.

The people running the setting have completed a reflective report reviewing the quality of care in March 2024. This report highlights what works well and what improvements are needed. They have drawn on the comments gathered by those using the setting but not included the comments from external agencies to fully evaluate. The responsible individual is in the process of preparing a new report reviewing the quality of care and staff are in the process of gathering comments from all those using the setting.

The people running the setting make sure the disclosure and barring checks for most staff and their mandatory training is up to date. Few staff DBS checks are in progress. Staff spoken with said they feel supported in their role and enjoy working at the setting. They commented on the improvements made to the setting and how they are working and communicating better as a team. Since our last visit, there have been changes in the staff team and the people running the setting have not gathered all of the required information in the staff employment files. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Not all the required information has been collated in the children's personal records to ensure staff have all the information they need to meet their individual needs. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Following our visit the responsible individual confirmed these matters are being addressed.

The people running the setting conduct supervisions with staff informally. They do not record these one-to-one discussions formally with staff to reflect on their practice, training needs and any safeguarding concerns. Appraisals with staff are pending discussion. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Following our visit the responsible individual explained that owing to changes in staffing this has been delayed. The responsible individual confirmed that a plan is in place and formal supervisions and appraisals will be taking place before

Christmas. Staff said that the person in charge, responsible individual and chair of the committee are very supportive and are always approachable if they need help and support.

Parents and carers spoken with praised the setting for their hard work. They commented that staff are '*friendly and approachable'* and their children are '*developing their language skills well'*. Parents / carers said that staff keep them up to date on their child's progress through talking to them and by sending them photographs of their child during activities.

Summary of Non-Compliance	
Status	**What each means**
New	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
Reviewed	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
Not Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

Priority Action Notice(s)		
Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
20	The responsible individual must ensure all staff are confident about the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and are able to put the safeguarding policy into practice. The responsible individual must make sure staff record the actions taken when noting a safeguarding concern. The responsible individual must ensure staff vigilantly supervise children at all times.	Achieved

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

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

Area(s) for Improvement		
Regulation	Summary	Status
28	The responsible individual must ensure all of the required information has been gathered in the staff employment files to ascertain the person's suitability to care for and safeguard children.	New
29	The responsible individual must ensure all paid staff receive one-to-one supervision and appraisal which encourages them to think about the quality of their practice and raise any safeguarding concerns. They must ensure staff receive formal appraisal at least once a year.	New
30	The responsible individual must ensure all of the required information has been collated in the children's personal records in order for staff to have all of the information they need to meet the individual needs of the child.	New
17	The responsible individual must ensure they complete the assessment of service within 28 days of receiving the request from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).	Not Achieved
30	The responsible individual must ensure staff record their daily hours of attendance, including their breaks, to ensure there is a clear audit of who is caring for children during the day. The responsible individual must ensure staff record accidents and incidents accurately and make sure parents / carers acknowledge these to evidence they have been kept informed. The responsible individual must ensure staff record the actions taken when recording safeguarding concerns	Achieved
25	The responsible individual must ensure staff follow the correct nappy changing procedures in line with the Public Health Wales (PHW) Infection Prevention and Control Guidance (2019) for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) in Wales) (Nurseries, Childminding and Playgroups).	Achieved

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.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Revise nappy changing procedures with all staff to ensure they are following the current infection control guidance fully.
Standard 5 - Records	Ensure staff are recording all actions taken when completing wider safeguarding concern records.
Standard 23 - Equipment	Make sure staff use resources effectively to raise children's awareness of and promote wider cultures.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children's well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children's well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

Was this report helpful?

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- Inspection report survey

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our Feedback surveys page.

Date Published 29/11/2024