Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Craigfelen Alpha Tots

Craigfelen CP School, Woodside Crescent, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5DP

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https://craigfelenprimary.weebly.com/

Date(s) of inspection visit(s):

15/05/2025, 21/05/2025

Service Information:

Operated by:	Craigfelen Alpha Tots
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	20
Main language(s):	Welsh and English
Flying Start service:	No
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The service provider is not meeting the Welsh language and culture needs of people and this requires improvement.

Ratings:

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

Summary:

Most children are happy and settled at the setting. They engage in free play and are forming friendships. Children have satisfactory play and learning opportunities. However, they have limited opportunities to make decisions and follow their interest as they do not have access to what they want to do at all times.

All staff are kind and caring. They have good relationships with the children. Some staff do not fully understand their responsibilities in keeping children safe and healthy and do not always ensure they identify children's individual health needs sufficiently.

The childcare rooms are bright and overall there are sufficient age-appropriate resources for children. Leaders have continued to make improvements to the environment following previous inspections. They ensure children have daily access to a shared enclosed outdoor area within? the school.

Leaders demonstrate adequate leadership and management. However, they do not always

maintain up to date policies and procedures and some staff files are not maintained in line with regulatory requirements. Staff supervision and annual appraisals are not conducted on a regular formal basis. An annual quality of care reporting system is in place. Leaders have developed positive relationships with parents.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Most children engage in free play and express their needs appropriately. However, not all children have a choice about what they want to do. For example, a planned craft activity only allowed one or two children to paint and stick, when several other children showed interest in wanting to do the activity. Children choose activities from the limited selection available to them. They express their needs verbally and non-verbally and most are listened to.

Nearly all children are happy and settled. They are forming friendships and are learning to take turns and share resources. Most children interact positively with one another and with staff. However, some are frustrated when they are unable to do activities they would like to. We saw children interacting appropriately together when playing with animals in the tuff tray as well as making cakes and pies in the outdoor mud kitchen. Children who arrive later are greeted by their peers in a friendly manner.

Most children are engaged in their play and learning and are content to explore the resources available to them. Children engage in activities, such as colouring worksheets and playing with cars on the floor. They excitedly explore the outdoor environment when it is their turn in the shared outdoor play area.

Some children are developing their independence skills adequately. Children feed themselves at mealtimes and drink appropriately from cups or beakers. However, children do not have enough opportunities to develop their independence at snack times as staff pour their chosen drinks. Children are encouraged to use the toilet independently. Some children help staff to tidy up and they listen to instructions well.

Care & Development — Adequate

Staff have an adequate understanding of their responsibility to keep children safe and healthy. The person in charge has not completed the correct safeguarding training in line with National Minimum Standards. The first aid qualification for all staff had expired in January 2025. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders do not ensure children's individual health needs, to include additional learning needs (ALN), are clear to all staff at the setting as the required completed documents regarding individual needs are not always available. Children's contracts and registration forms do not contain all the required information, including parental/carer information, medical details to include any allergies, along with signs, symptoms, and actions to take in the event of any reaction. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Staff do not consistently follow hygiene procedures at the setting. During the first inspection visit, staff did not ensure children washed their hands after outdoor play, before mealtimes and after using the toilet. Staff implement basic cleaning practices. For example, they clean surfaces using anti-bacterial wipes and a cloth. The standard of cleanliness in the toilet was also poor during this visit with unflushed toilets, dirty toilet booster seats and toilet paper over the floor. Following a painting activity, care staff cleaned children's hands using wet wipes. No plates were used for snack with fruit being placed directly on the table. Children could only choose one small piece of fruit each. Staff refused children's requests for more fruit as there was insufficient quantity of fruit for the number of children cared for. Fridge temperatures were recorded, including an entry for the first day of the inspection. However, no fridge thermometer had been in situ in the fridge. Staff's food hygiene certificates had expired in 2021. Staff can confidently explain the nappy changing procedures; however, they used one shared pot of children's barrier cream for several children, increasing the risk of cross infection. Staff ensure accident and incident records are fully completed.

Staff show a satisfactory understanding of the behaviour policy. They praise children for their efforts; we heard "*Da iawn*" and "*Well done*". They encourage children to use good manners such as saying 'Please'. Staff celebrate children's achievements with praise; they are kind and caring towards the children.

Staff manage interactions in a warm, friendly way and are positive role models. They play alongside the children and encourage positive interactions. Staff encourage children to play and co-operate together. They listen to and respect children's views. We saw staff being responsive and physically affectionate with children; they pick them up, cuddle them and meet their basic needs.

Staff understand children's abilities but do not always support them suitably. They do not always

consider individual children’s wishes and needs in a sensitive manner, discussing some children specific needs and behaviour in front of them and other children. Planning activities and resources do not ensure all children’s needs and abilities are always sufficiently met. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Environment — Adequate

The setting is bright and light. However, during the first inspection visit, the environment was untidy and chaotic. Leaders had not ensured the home corner was well equipped. Some dressing up items were inappropriate, posing a potential risk to the health and safety of children present. For example, children wore high heeled stiletto shoes. During the first visit, leaders had not ensured the floor in the main base room had been cleaned fully from lunch time. Food debris remained on the floor where some children were walking barefoot. Resources are stored in a cluttered and untidy manner. However, the was a marked improvement in the presentation and organisation of the base room during the second visit. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders ensure fire exits are clear, allowing for access in the event of an emergency. However, leaders do not complete regular fire tests and drills. For instance, the most recent record is dated 19 January 2025, and the previous record was 16 November 2023. Records also lack detail. The last fire safety check in relation to the setting was undertaken on 19 September 2024. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders do not carry out risk assessments following accidents to eliminate or reduce re-occurrence. No daily risk assessment in the form of opening and closing checks are undertaken. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Overall, leaders ensure the environment is sufficiently secure. Staff monitor the main entrance to ensure no one has unsupervised access to the setting. Children have access to a well-equipped shared outdoor environment which promotes their learning, development curiosity and physical play. No daily cleaning rotas were visible at the setting to ensure staff maintain a clean and hygienic environment. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders ensure most children access age-appropriate furniture, toys, and equipment. Leaders ensure that many resources are stored at low level, so children can access them independently. They have some equipment and displays which promote cultural awareness and equal opportunities suitably. Basic Welsh is promoted at the setting.

Leadership & Management — Adequate

Leadership of the setting is not consistent. Leaders do not maintain all policies and procedures. Staff files are not maintained fully in line with regulatory requirements. For example, some staff files viewed were missing identification documents and appropriate references. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders do not ensure all staff receive regular formal supervision and appraisals that are recorded in their staff files. These meetings are not completed in a timely manner, and do not provide opportunities for meaningful discussions. This had also been a recommendation from the previous inspection and had not been addressed. Outcomes for children require improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

An annual quality of care reporting system is in place. Leaders consult parents and children regularly to bring about positive outcomes for the children and families who attend the setting. The setting has developed positive relationships with the school, parents and carers.

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
Children are at potential risk because the provider has failed to address the health and individual needs of children.	15/05/25
Children are at potential risk because the provider does not ensure that potential risks to children's health, hygiene and safety are not consistently identified and/or reduced.	15/05/25
Children are at potential risks because they are not always provided with snacks which are served in adequate quantities, suitable for their needs and meets their reasonable preferences.	15/05/25
Children are at potential risk because the provider does not carry out and record regular fire drills.	15/05/25
Children are at potential risk because the provider does not hold all required information in relation to staff and does not undertake appropriate supervisions and annual appraisals.	15/05/25

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 - Child protection	Ensure that the person in charge has completed the correct safeguarding training in line with National Minimum Standards.
Standard 4 - Meeting individual needs	Ensure that children have their own individual cream available at nappy changing time.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure that daily cleaning rotas are followed in order to maintain a clean and hygienic environment.

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)
Ensure that a greater choice of age appropriate resources and equipment is available to fully encourage child led play.

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