Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Drefach Felindre

Neuadd Y Ddraig Goch, Velindre, Llandysul, SA44 5UG

07908808196

Date(s) of inspection visit(s):

05/06/2025, 18/06/2025

Service Information:

Operated by:	Pwyllgor Cylch Meithrin Drefach Felindre
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	14
Main language(s):	Welsh
Flying Start service:	Yes
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	Yes
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The service provider anticipates, identifies, and meets the Welsh language and culture needs of people.

Ratings:

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

Summary:

Children enjoy their time at Cylch Meithrin Drefach Felindre and are happy and settled. They have a good voice and can make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. Children are safe and develop positive relationships with staff and each other. They have some opportunities to learn and develop.

Staff have a suitable understanding of their responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. They know the children well and nearly all speak to them in a warm and friendly manner. Overall, the staff support the children's development appropriately through some engaging activities and experiences.

Those responsible for running the setting ensure all areas used by the children are safe and welcoming. There is a range of good quality toys and resources, and these provide appropriate opportunities for children to learn and develop their skills. Children can access an outdoor area at

the rear of the building, which offers further secure play opportunities.

On the whole, those responsible for running the setting understand their responsibilities, but improvements need to be made in relation to completing regular supervision meetings and annual appraisals for staff. Staff develop positive relationships with parents.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They are confident in making decisions about how to spend their time and move freely around the play areas following their interests. Children are eager and confident to share their ideas, answer questions and chat with the staff, knowing they will appreciate what they have to say. For example, they confidently share their ideas as they play outdoors with tools, *'Fi mynd i ficso pethau'* ('I'm going to fix things.') and state confidently which song they want to sing. Children feel a sense of achievement. They smile when praised for assisting staff as they prepare ingredients.

Children enjoy their play and learning. They are free to explore their environment and can explore a good range of toys and resources both inside and outside. Most children are active learners and take part in activities enthusiastically. They show interest and excitement as they work in groups, eagerly telling staff they want to help. Children enjoy joining in with adult-led or group activities, for example listening to a story or measuring ingredients to create play dough. Nearly all children interact positively and openly. They work together and socialise in a friendly manner. For example, they sit together on the play sofa looking at and discussing a soft toy. They show respect and care towards other during snack time, with one child pouring milk for another. Children happily take turns with encouragement from staff as they take part in guided activities, for example as they place toy vehicles to travel on the guttering outdoors. Most children understand how to take their turn, wait and share. The interaction between the children and staff demonstrates that children are developing their communication skills.

Children are given opportunities to develop their independence skills by completing tasks for themselves. For example, they wash their hands and attempt to wear their aprons independently. During snack time they pour their drinks confidently. Children work together well, with support from staff to tidy up the resources and toys.

Care & Development — Adequate

Staff know the children well. They support children to speak and express themselves with confidence and provide them with a consistent timely response to their requests. Overall, staff have a warm and friendly approach to care giving. However, at times responding to children's choices and actions is not always done in a positive manner.

Staff have a clear understanding of safeguarding procedures and consistently record children's and their own attendance as part of their wider safeguarding practices to ensure children's safety. Staff understand and implement policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles well. They provide healthy snacks with an option of milk or water for children to drink. Staff encourage children to wash their hands at appropriate times, helping them to develop their personal hygiene practice effectively. However, staff use a shared bowl of water to wash children's hands prior to activities such as making their own play dough. During the visit, we discussed good hygiene practice in relation to hand washing and drying hands with individual paper towels rather than a shared hand towel. Nearly all staff have completed mandatory training suitable for the age range of children being cared for, however only one staff member had completed first aid training on the day of the visit. Since the inspection, we have received confirmation that appropriate first aid training has been organised. Staff identify risks and manage them consistently, for example reminding children to take care and to sit tidily on chairs.

Staff record accidents and incidents, and these are signed by parents to evidence they are kept informed. Nappy changing procedures are not fully in line with current infection control guidance. For example, staff did not follow the process as outlined in the procedure and the nappy changing mat needed replacing. Following the visit, the leader confirmed the changing mat had been replaced. Staff conduct regular fire drills, so children and staff know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Nearly all staff follow the positive behaviour management policy well and encourage children to cooperate and be kind to their friends. Overall, they provide a warm and welcoming environment and make sure children are provided with reassurance and comfort when needed.

Staff are consistently engaging with children during their activities, for instance, staff provide support through asking questions to help children create models of their choice in the play dough activity. Staff record children's progress, however the planning of activities to meet children's needs is not consistent. Most staff are responsive and sensitive to the individual needs of all children.
Staff promote the Welsh language and culture appropriately to develop children's use and understanding of the language.

Environment — Good

The setting operates from a community hall which is safe, secure and suitably clean. Staff ensure they lock the external door once children have arrived. They consistently record visitors to the setting. Staff are aware of safety considerations, and they carry out daily safety checks. They have a range of suitable written risk assessments in place, however, these do not evidence review. The people in charge of the building maintain it to a satisfactory standard. People running the service have measures and policies in place to ensure they fulfil their responsibilities in relation to the safety of children in their care. Building safety, fire checks and certificates are valid and evidences their awareness of safety requirements. Staff ensure they carry out and record fire evacuation procedures. We were provided with additional copies of fire drills following the visit.

Overall, people running the service ensure indoor play resources are displayed and presented within children's reach, for example plastic animals in baskets, role play home corner, creative area and building materials. They provide a good range of toys and resources which are in good condition and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development, for example wooden building blocks, sensory light table, books and puppets. Appropriate fittings and furniture are at a suitable height for a child, such as the tables and chairs. The play space available to children is limited, however the layout and set up of the room does allow children space to move around freely. Children's toilets are accessible directly from outside the playroom. The setting has an area within the main base room for food preparation. People running the service ensure there are thorough cleaning routines to maintain good hygiene practices and infection control methods.

People running the service ensure children have access to a dedicated outdoor area which present some opportunities for children to explore. They ensure children use this area regularly. The area presents potentially interesting opportunities for children to develop both fine and gross motor skills. For example, water play with gutters, mark making tables, mud kitchen, planting areas and plastic ride on toys to name a few.

Staff ensure the environment reflects some artwork the children have created, creating a sense of belonging. We discussed celebrating different cultures and promoting diversity with the staff. They informed us they have resources and celebrate Chinese New Year, Diwali, Santes Dwynwen and other cultural celebrations with the children. Staff told us they follow a celebrations calendar to promote celebrations from different cultures. They also ensure children have access to sustainable resources such as stainless-steel items in the role play area and wooden blocks for building.

Leadership & Management — Adequate

People running the service have adequate knowledge of their regulatory responsibilities. They ensure relevant policies are in place and are current. People running the service ensure the required documents are in place. We viewed children's files and found nearly all permissions are in place, however not all permission records have been signed for by parents and carers. The statement of purpose was updated during the visit to include information on facilities and now includes all the information required by National Minimum Standards (NMS). This provides parents with information about what the setting offers. People running the service ensure daily registers reflect the number of children and staff present. These records show ratios are correct and adhered to.

People running the service follow thorough recruitment processes to safeguard children. They have ensured all named service persons have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and are current. A completed quality of care review is in place, which considers the views of service users, parents and staff. The review also includes ways forward for development. People running the service have a good understanding of their responsibility to promote the Welsh language and culture.

Staff files evidence the responsible individual has undertaken some supervisions with staff. However, these meetings are not completed regularly, and annual appraisals are not in place. People who run the service shared further copies of supervisions with CIW following the visit, however these do not evidence regular and consistent opportunities for staff to have one to one discussions with people who run the service. This is a recurring area for improvement, and we expect those responsible for running the setting to take prompt action. Staff spoken to during the visit felt opportunities for meetings and training are limited.

People running the service have good relationships with parents. They share information with them effectively, ensuring they are given information about their child's time at the setting. Parents are given the latest information about their child's day through verbal feedback at the end of each session. People running the service also use a private social media page to share pictures and information about the setting with parents. The parents we spoke with said they have a good relationship with the staff, and they praised the care their children receive. People who run the setting ensure children are taken out to the local community on walks and visit local areas of interest, such as the museum.

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
The Responsible Individual does not ensure that regular supervisions and appraisals are conducted. Mandatory training is not always prioritised. This impacts on staff development as they do not have the most current information and training. The Responsible Individual must ensure that regular supervisions and appraisals are conducted.	05/06/25

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 24 - Safety	Ensure risk assessments are reviewed on a regular basis.
Standard 10 – Healthcare	Further develop hygiene practices in relation to handwashing.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure written planning is in place for planned activities.

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 children's permissions are fully in place.

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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