Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Tycroes

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The inspection visits for this service took place between 21/05/2026 and 22/05/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Cylch Meithrin Tycroes
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	19
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	Adequate
Care & Development	Adequate
Environment	Poor
Leadership & Management	Poor

Summary:

Nearly all the children are happy and settled and have beneficial play and learning experiences throughout the setting. They confidently make choices about which activities they engage in and are free to move between all opportunities offered and the various areas available. Children's social and independence skills are developing age appropriately.

Staff keep children safe and suitably implement the setting's policies and procedures. Interactions between staff and children are always warm and skilful and staff successfully support the needs of nearly all children They organise an appropriate range of play and learning activities and offer suitable experiences. However, they do not plan activities according to the children's interests.

The indoor environment is welcoming and organised effectively. People who run the setting ensure staff consistently implement good hygiene routines and infection control practices. The indoor environments are clean and safe, and all areas are suitable for the children to play independently.

However, the outdoor area has visible risks and hazards present. Risk assessments have been completed, but these are inconsistent at present. People who run the setting make sure there are good quality resources for indoor and outdoor activities. These resources are suitable for the ages and stages of development of children in each of the rooms.

People who run the setting promote a positive ethos and staff work well together to support children. Communication with parents is appropriate through daily interactions. However, leadership does not consistently ensure compliance with regulations and recruitment processes are poor. We found incomplete staff files, including missing references and current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates. As a result, people who run the setting cannot demonstrate that all staff are suitable to work with children. Quality assurance processes are underdeveloped and do not clearly identify priorities, actions, timescales or impact on outcomes for children.

Findings:

Well-being — Adequate

Children have a suitable voice within the setting. They choose their activities freely and move between different play areas independently, including creative and physical play. Children express their ideas and preferences and staff respond accordingly. For example, when playing outdoors or engaged in activities indoors such as decorating cakes. Children enjoy the calmness with staff and have a good routine. When tidying up, they know what needs to be done and engage in expectations immediately. Children are encouraged to speak and express themselves. For example, what snack they want; how are they feeling and what do they want to do.”

Children interact well with each other. They take turns, share resources and begin to manage their behaviour appropriately. We saw children co-operating during group activities and waiting patiently for their turn. Children enjoy their play and engage in a range of activities.

Children encourage staff to participate in activities and invite them into their play. Children always listen effectively and play happily with each other, sharing various resources and following staff’s instructions and requests. It is clear children enjoy and benefit from the activities, opportunities and the nurturing care on offer.

Children have independent access to the toilet, where they routinely wash their hands after every activity, including eating. Children are encouraged to be independent by choosing which resources to use or which activities to participate in. For example, children help each other when choosing activities indoors and outdoors. They are fully aware of where resources are stored and ask for items confidently if they are not within their reach.

Children are developing independence in some areas, for example choosing activities and managing routines. However, independence at snack time could be increased. Children are encouraged to develop emotionally, physically, socially and creatively through opportunities during outdoor play and when taking part in group activities.

Care & Development — Adequate

Staff have a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and demonstrate a sound knowledge of how to keep children safe. When discussing the procedures they would follow if they had concerns about a child in their care, staff were confident on who to contact. The setting's policy is clear, sets out clearly the procedures which should be followed and is regularly reviewed and shared with staff. Staff follow appropriate procedures to ensure children's safety, and there are suitable hygiene measures in place. For example, they ensure children wash their hands before eating, after participating in activities and after using the toilet. Staff follow their policy and procedures in relation to nappy changing and infection control. For example, an appropriate changing table is used, and nappies are disposed of appropriately. They also make full use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when changing nappies including gloves and a disposable apron. All staff have completed mandatory first aid training, enabling them to deal with accidents effectively. Staff record accidents and incidents that have occurred at the service. These are signed by staff, parents and carers. However, the setting does not at present record any pre-existing injuries or incidents when children arrive.

Staff provide a calm, happy and caring atmosphere for the children in their care. Staff chat and participate in activities with the children regularly. They follow their behaviour management policy consistently to support children. For example, when children have disagreements, staff calmly explain to them the importance of listening to each other and how to respect personal space. Staff supervise children during mealtimes and promote appropriate behaviour. This is done through positive interactions, ensuring children sit on suitable furniture and encouraging them to eat independently.

Staff provide verbal feedback to parents at the end of each day. At present, there is no formal planning of activities in place. However, staff told us that they are currently developing a system of planning. Staff have developed good links with officers from the Local Authority to best support children with emerging additional learning needs. They told us that they have regular visits and meetings from officers to support them in implementing and monitoring healthcare plans. The use of the Welsh language is strong and effective throughout the inspection.

Environment — Poor

People who run the setting ensure the indoor environment is warm and welcoming for the children. They utilise the indoor areas and provide valuable and consistent opportunities for children to play and learn. The indoor environment is generally safe and secure, and doors are locked while children are in attendance. Staff complete reasonable risk assessments which outline the steps to take to reduce or prevent risks to children effectively. However, these are not dynamic and do not fully assess the outdoor area. People who run the setting ensure children are always well-supervised. However, they do not always carry out regular fire drills and ensure children know how to evacuate the building safely in the event of an emergency. On the day of the inspection, we also found firefighting equipment was not accessible due to display boards blocking their position. Outcomes for children require improvement because people who run the setting do not ensure adequate fire precautions arrangements. The indoor areas are cleaned daily, and staff ensure they are hygienic for the children.

The indoor areas offer appropriate opportunities for children to follow their interests. They also provide opportunities for children to learn through role-play, building activities and arts and crafts. People who run the setting ensure that children have easy access to both playrooms and a good selection of toys, resources and role-play equipment. Children have access to various resources such as books, dolls, a small kitchen and suitable small furniture. However, the resources to promote diversity and equality available to children is limited.

The outdoor area is mainly enclosed by stone walls and fences, and there are appropriate measures in place to keep most of this area secure. People who run the setting provide a selection of outdoor resources, which they ensure are appropriately maintained. These include a mud kitchen, picnic benches, tyres and building materials. They ensure children have access to the outdoor area in all weathers. However, risks in outdoor areas are not always properly monitored and managed. During the inspection, the outdoor area had many hazards present. We observed mature stinging nettles growing in the planters, which had in the past caused injury to children. There was stagnant water and sand in a tray which was left open to the weather and animals, and we also saw that there was an unsuitable fence on one side of the setting. People who run the setting do not always ensure the kitchen area is properly secured in order to monitor children's access to where cleaning chemicals are stored within their reach. As a result of regulatory failings with regards to hazards and safety, we found risk to people's wellbeing**.** Therefore, we have issued a priority action notice and expect the provider to take immediate steps to address this and make improvements.

Leadership & Management — Poor

Leadership and management of the setting is poor. However, people who run the setting promote a positive ethos and staff work well together to support children. They ensure the setting, is suitable, but at present leadership and management is inconsistent. The staff team are effective and work well together. They have positive expectations of staff and support them to do their best. The statement of purpose provides relevant information to parents and carers about the setting, what it offers and the information that they need, to make an informed choice about the provision. People who run the setting do not regularly review their policies and procedures, which could result in staff failing to implement them effectively. They have consistent record keeping systems in place including children's contracts and children and staff's attendance registers. People who run the setting do not inform Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) of events as set out in regulations, providing relevant information at the correct times. Outcomes for children require improvement because they have failed to inform CIW of events and we expect the provider to make improvements.

People who run the setting currently do not have effective systems for the evaluation of the setting and currently do not seek feedback from parents, staff, and children. They do not appropriately review performance, identify priorities for improvement and ensure the best opportunities for staff and children. As there is no immediate risk to people using the service, we have issued an area for improvement. Outcomes for children require improvement because people who run the setting do not evaluate the service and we expect the provider to make improvements. People who run the setting do not carry out suitability checks on staff. During the inspection, staff files inspected were missing references and work history. As there is no immediate risk to people using the service, we have issued an area for improvement. We expect people who run the setting to take action to rectify this, and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Not all staff had up to date DBS certificates. However, since the inspection, people who run the setting have taken steps to rectify this matter. As there is no immediate risk to people using the service, we have issued an area for improvement. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this, and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Parents and carers speak positively of the setting, the opportunities offered, and the care their children receive.

Staff do not receive regular supervision and appraisals. This was recognised an area for improvement in their last inspection. This matter has still not been addressed and people who run the setting do not have appropriate systems in place to ensure regular and meaningful supervision and appraisals for staff. Outcomes for children and people require significant improvement because staff do not receive regular supervision and appraisals and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

All staff are encouraged to attend training to further develop their qualifications and the

opportunities for children. During the inspection, staff told us that they felt supported by management and could confidently talk and discuss concerns with them.

The setting has developed good partnerships with parents, carers and outside agencies such as schools and the Local Council. These partnerships enhance the opportunities and experiences given to children. Staff share regular daily updates including photographs of activities, with parents and carers at collection time and through a closed social media group.

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 provider is non complaint as they have failed to ensure all suitability checks and documentation is in place for staff. The provider must ensure all suitability checks are in place prior to staff commencing employment.	21/05/26
We found poor outcomes for children as Care Inspectorate Wales are not aware of the ongoing suitability of the staff at the setting.	21/05/26
The provider must make suitable arrangements to review the service.	21/05/26
We found poor outcomes for children as the provider does not always notify CIW as per regulatory requirements.	21/05/26
Children are at risk of harm as the responsible individual has not undertaken effective fire safety measures to reduce and eliminate potential harm.	21/05/26

Summary of areas for Priority Action	Date identified
Children are at risk of harm as the provider has not undertaken effective risk assessments to cover all areas and activities within the nursery.	21/05/26
Outcomes for children are poor as staff are not in receipt of regular supervision and appraisals.	03/10/23

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	Develop processes and procedures to record formally all pre exiting injuries on children's arrival.
Standard 16 - Equal opportunities	Develop the diversity and equality resources and activities available to children.

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)
Offer opportunities to develop children's independence, especially at snack time.

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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