Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Dolau

Llanfihangel Rhydithon Cp School
Dolau
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 5TW



Date Inspection Completed

22/10/2024

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About Cylch Meithrin Dolau

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Meithrin Dolau
Registered places	12
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Post Registration Inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is not making a significant effort to promote the use of Welsh language and culture.

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

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

Summary

All children are happy and settled. They freely make choices and decisions about what and where they play. Children have good relationships with one another and staff. They enjoy an adequate range of opportunities, both inside and outside.

Staff understand and implement policies and procedures to promote safety for children. They positively interact and engage, using positive reinforcement regularly. Staff provide a range of play and learning activities, they know the children well.

People who run the setting have appropriate policies and practices in place and generally ensure the environment is suitably safe, secure, and well maintained indoors and outdoors. Children access a range of activities and resources, which are readily available to them.

People who run the setting have a good understanding of the regulations and national minimum standards. They have a clear vision and are keen to drive improvements.

Well-being — Good

Children make choices and happily move around the environment. They freely access the areas of learning and resources they want to play with. Children confidently speak to others and communicate with staff well, as they know they will be listened and responded to appropriately. For example, children asked staff to join them in their play outside.

Nearly all children settle well. Those new to the service, who may be a little apprehensive receive the support and comfort needed to allow them to become more relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings. Children are familiar with the environment and displays of some of their work help them to gain a sense of belonging. Children are familiar with the routines.

Children interact well and enjoy playing together. They learn to share space and resources appropriately for their ages and stages of development. For example, children took it in turns pushing a doll in a pushchair or waited patiently to ride on the bike. Nearly all children respected each other and the resources, using them appropriately and returning them when they had finished.

All children enjoy the activities available and actively engage in play experiences they have freely chosen. For example, children were smiling and laughing when they built a train track together and two trains crashed. Children keenly shared their experiences with staff and us, telling others, what they were doing and where they wanted to play. They focused on activities and their play for suitable lengths of time for their ages and stages of development.

Children are able to develop some independence as they can freely access resources and areas they want to play and can put their shoes and coats on before playing outdoors. Children happily and confidently use equipment without asking for help or support. However, opportunities are missed during snack time to further promote independence.

Care and Development — Adequate

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe. They implement the settings policies and procedures and know what to do should if they have any safeguarding concerns about a child. Leaders complete registers of children and staff attendance, evidencing ratios are met consistently; relevant records of accidents and incidents are recorded shared with parents. Staff help to ensure they and the children know how to evacuate the premises in an emergency by conducting and recording fire drills at regular intervals. Staff complete routines to help keep the environment clean and prevent the spread of germs. Staff promote handwashing during such times as snack. Staff provide many opportunities for children to be active and get fresh air, with the outdoor areas being regularly accessible.

Staff support and encourage children's speech and language skills through interactions and responding well to children's attempts at communication. Staff have a caring manner. For example, we saw lots of comfort and support provided to all children. Staff got down to children's level when communicating with them and when playing alongside them, which supported the children's understanding. We heard lots of conversation and enjoyment as they read books together. Staff take opportunities to extend children's learning through play.

Staff have a good understanding of child development. They get to know the children well, so they can plan opportunities suitable for the children's ages and stages of development. Staff follow the children's interests and use play to extend their learning. Staff are involved in planning and share ideas with people who run the service. However, it would be beneficial for the staff to attend training around the Curriculum for Wales and new ways of working.

Environment — Adequate

People who run the setting ensure the environment is safe, secure, and well maintained. The main door has a doorbell and all visitors sign in. People who run the setting complete a range of risk assessments, with reviews in place. Staff complete daily visual and health and safety checks. People who run the setting complete regular fire drills. Effective cleaning routines are in place. However, there is a need to de clutter the play space.

People who run the setting provide a flexible environment. The indoor play space is organised to provide children with space to freely move and stimulate their learning, with different play zones. All the equipment is at low level for children to access independently. The outdoor play space has a range of opportunities. A mud kitchen, planting area, a playhouse and climbing frame are available. Children have warm wet weather clothes and welly boots, allowing them to access outdoors in all weathers. However, free access to outdoor play is not currently available.

People who run the setting provide an adequate range of quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources. This ensures children have plenty of variety and choice. They provide resources for all ages and stages of development, which contribute to the children's all-round development. For example, through role play, construction play, sensory and creative activities. People who run the setting provide resources and learning opportunities to promote children's curiosity about the wider society, celebrating equality and cultural awareness.

Leadership and Management — Adequate

People who run the setting engage positively with CIW and are keen to drive improvement. There is a strong vision for the setting, which is shared with others. They meet the national minimum standards and regulations. People who run the setting inform CIW of any significant events and keep us up to date with changes via the online portal. An accurate Statement of Purpose provides a clear overview of the provision on offer.

Staff ensure regulatory records are in place. They complete registers for children and staff at the setting. Thorough contracts and information are held on each child along with consent forms for a variety of activities at the setting. Policies, procedures, and documents are regularly reviewed. They have a current ICO certificate, alongside appropriate public liability insurances.

Leaders ensure that there are effective self-evaluation systems in place. They seek the views of children, parents, and other professionals. Within the review they reflect on what they do well and how they can improve. People who run the setting, lead by example, providing a supportive and effective team working environment. There is a strong team ethos at the setting.

People who run the setting follow robust recruitment processes to safeguard children. There are recruitment procedures and suitability checks in place. All staff have current and up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. Induction is complete. Staff have support from their manager, with regular supervisions and appraisals undertaken. Team meetings regularly take place.

People who run the setting have established relationships with parents and carers. They have support from professionals, which enhances the provision for children and families attending the setting. Parents are kept informed of their children’s day via verbal discussions.

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

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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this	N/A

	inspection	

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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
to consider accessing training in relation to new ways of working, in particular the new curriculum for Wales
To further enhance independence during snack time
To declutter the indoor space

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.

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