Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch cwtsh y Lawnt

Ysgol Y Lawnt
The Lawn Rhymney
Tredegar
NP22 5LS

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

03/07/2023

About Cylch cwtsh y Lawnt

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Person	Danielle Rudd
Registered places	30
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First inspection following registration.
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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

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

Summary

Children are happy and engaged at the setting. They form close, warm relationships with staff and the other children. They interact nicely with each other and are learning to cooperate by taking turns and sharing. Children choose to participate in activities that result in a good feeling and demonstrate good skills in independence.

Staff keep children safe and healthy. They are professional, appropriately qualified and enjoy their work. Staff are kind, caring and interact well with children. They provide suitable play activities to develop the children's skills and follow their interests.

The premises are secure, and suitably maintained. Risk assessments and daily checklists are in place; however, these are in need of review. The people who run the setting provide suitable resources to meet the needs of the children.

The leadership and management of the setting is effective. The people who run the setting are committed to make improvements and have a good vision for the future. There are suitable policies and procedures in place and records are kept. Partnerships with parents and the school are very good.

Well-being Good

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They know the staff well and readily approach them for guidance or comfort. Children have a good sense of belonging and are familiar with daily routines. They know what resources are available to them and where they can play. They enjoy a sociable lunchtime, chatting happily with their friends and staff.

Children are able to make choices and staff listen to them. They can choose their activities freely and know they will receive help or support if they ask for it. For example, one child asked for support to dress a doll they were playing with. Children are encouraged to voice their preferences, and this makes them feel safe and secure. Children feel confident and develop self-esteem, expressing satisfaction with the good range of play and learning resources available to them.

Children interact positively with their friends and with those caring for them. They are able to wait their turn when staff serve them with fruit and water, thanking the staff for their foods and drinks. Children form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. Many play happily together or alongside each other. We saw children work together and transport each other around the playground on a tandem bicycle. Children are encouraged to be kind and considerate towards their peers. They are learning to take turns and share during activities.

Children enjoy the activities on offer. They are free to explore their environment and spend time on activities that interest them. They concentrate for appropriate periods of time during craft activities, imaginative play and games. Children are inquisitive and keen to show adults what they are learning. For example, some children wanted to show us the butterflies and happily chatted about them. Many children are keen to join in group sessions and engage with staff during adult questioning activities.

Children are encouraged to do as much for themselves as possible. They tidy up after play and at mealtimes. They naturally try to do things independently before staff intervene, such as doing up their own coat zips and collecting their belongings. They access the toilet facilities freely and wash their hands independently.

Care and Development — Adequate

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. They are aware of the safeguarding policy and their duty to report concerns to the registered person. They are also aware of their individual duty to report to the local authority safeguarding team should the need arise. Staff keep records relating to accidents and incidents which are signed by parents. They hold paediatric first aid training, enabling them to deal with minor accidents confidently. Staff promote healthy eating by preparing a daily healthy snack, with milk and water to drink. They tell us they have signed up for a healthy eating initiative to further support children and families in the future. Staff promote children's physical well-being successfully through regular exercise and outdoor play. Most staff hold relevant food hygiene training and follow correct cleaning procedures as part of the infection control process to help keep children healthy and safe. The people who run the setting completed the Public Health Wales (PHW) infection control audit during the course of the inspection. Working with the staff they have identified many areas of strengths and a few areas of development which they have begun to address.

Staff treat children with dignity and respect. They are sensitive to the needs of the children, providing care and affection. They give hugs when needed to give comfort and reassurance. Staff know the children well which enables them to respond to their needs and preferences. During the inspection the people who run the setting responded to feedback on the behaviour management policy. They reviewed and updated the policy to include details about bullying and have provided a copy to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). Staff understand the behaviour management policy aim to promote positive behaviour through praise and positive language. The majority of staff are skilful in implementing these strategies and are consistent in their approach when handling any challenging behaviour. For example, we saw staff speak quietly, with a child explaining what needs to happen now and next. They praise children's good choices and behaviours using positive language and reward stickers.

Staff have a suitable knowledge of play-based learning and plan some activities to develop skills. They support children in their play. Children attend the Welsh-medium primary school and staff ensure they promote the Welsh language at all times. Many staff are skilful in immersing the children in the Welsh language through songs and stories as well as focused activities such as the daily register. When communicating, Welsh is used first, but the English translation is offered if needed, to meet the needs of the children. Many staff promote children's learning through appropriate questions. For example, during a play activity staff asked suitable questions such as *"What colour is that?"* At snack time, they take opportunities to reinforce language such as *"Ga i help?"* and *"Diolch"* (*"Can I have help?"* and *"Thank you")*. During a group activity, children take turns to choose and discuss an object and have opportunities to respond to adult questions and share experiences.

Environment — Adequate

The people who run the setting have systems and procedures in place to ensure the environment is safe and secure. The setting is located in the nursery class of Ysgol y Lawnt. Visitors enter the setting via the school main gate using an intercom system and sign in at reception. The people who run the setting also keep a separate record of visitors at the setting. Staff are also required to sign in at reception and the leader is able to access this information when required. A separate system for recording staff attendance specific to the setting was put in place during the course of the inspection. The people who run the setting organise fire drill practices and these are timed, dated and evaluated. Cleaning materials are stored safely out of the reach of children. Risk assessments are in place for indoor and outdoor areas, and these inform the daily checklists recorded by staff. However, they do not identify all unnecessary risks to children and as far as possible, eliminate these. The school authorities are responsible for all maintenance and servicing of utilities and share information with the setting.

The people who run the setting ensure the environment is welcoming and child centred. Children have space to play and learn in one large room as well as a dedicated outdoor area. Children's toilets are easily accessible and provide for children's privacy and dignity. The people who run the setting provide a small, dedicated space for children to have quiet relaxing time on children's sofas. However, there is limited space to meet the needs for rest and sleep times as they move to provide longer opening hours in the future.

The people who run the setting ensure there are a range of resources available in a play environment. The layout of this area allows children to explore freely, and children can access the majority of equipment which supports their independence. The people who run the setting provide equipment and resources that are appropriate for the age and stages of children's development. Resources promote curiosity and discovery. Children's personal and social development is also enhanced by having access to multicultural toys and books. The people who run the setting provide children with sufficient opportunities for active play in the dedicated outdoor area. This extends their learning and development. Children look forward to playing on the bikes and building obstacle courses using blocks and tyres.

Leadership and Management — Good

The leadership and management of the setting is good. The people who run the setting liaise with CIW in a timely manner. They ensure the statement of purpose complies with the relevant regulations and meets national minimum standards. There are suitable policies and procedures in place and records are kept. However, some policies, do not reflect the most current practice and staff records have not been retained by the setting. The setting has recently changed to provide full day care. This is in response to parents' requests for care over the upcoming summer holidays and subsequent school holidays. The people who run the setting ensure records for children are kept and signed by parents. These include, contracts, permissions, information forms and individual needs.

The people who run the setting are fully committed to improvement and have embraced their first full inspection as an integral part of their self-evaluation and improvement planning. They are prepared to accept feedback and act upon matters which are brought to their attention without delay. During the course of the inspection, they made several improvements such as registering with the Information Commissioner's Office and provided a staff training action plan. They are currently in the process of translating key documents and policies to Welsh, and, in doing so, are working towards fully providing the Welsh active offer.

The people who run the setting ensure that there are enough qualified staff to care for children and that the adult to child ratio is maintained at all times. They make sure staff have mandatory training certificates and all staff hold a current disclosure and barring certificate. Staff have the appropriate experience and qualifications, and an induction process is in place for new staff. As a result, staff understand their roles and responsibilities well. The people who run the setting reflect on practice and they value the contributions of staff in this process. They provide regular opportunities for staff to offer their views informally, at staff meetings, and in one-to-one supervisions. Staff told us that the people who run the setting are approachable, supportive, and they feel valued. The people who run the setting ensure a strong culture of continuous professional development exists within the setting and many staff are currently undertaking further training.

The People who run the setting have a complaints policy and procedure in place although no complaints have been received. Partnerships with parents, carers and the school are strong. Parents are very complimentary of the setting and speak highly of the leader, staff and of the care their children receive. Many parents told us they felt staff had supported their children's individual needs and would recommend the setting to others.

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. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement		
Regulation	Summary	Status

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

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 5 - Records	Ensure that records for staff caring for children are retained.
Standard 24 - Safety	Review risk assessments and ensure that they are working documents that fully inform the daily checklist for risk management.
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure rest facilities meet the national minimum standards day care requirements.

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)
Review policies and ensure they are reflective of the most current practice and are available in Welsh.

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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