Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Cwmllynfell

Cylch Meithrin Cwmllynfell
Ysgol Gynradd Cwmllynfell
Bryn Road, Cwmllynfell
Swansea
SA9 2FJ



Date Inspection Completed

02/05/2024

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2024.
You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

About Cylch Meithrin Cwmllynfell

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	**Cylch Meithrin Cwmllynfell**
Registered places	19
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote the Welsh language and culture?	The service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service.

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

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

Summary

Children are happy and confident in communicating their wishes and their needs are considered regularly. They have opportunities to make choices and their interests are valued. Children are settled and are developing close relationships with their friends and staff. They express enjoyment and are becoming familiar with the daily routine.

Staff follow policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, safety and personal well-being. They are developing their understanding of risk management and understand their responsibilities with regard to child protection. Staff plan purposeful activities and develop systems to support their learning. However, there are four recommendations to improve practice.

The people running the Cylch Meithrin provide an environment where children are free to move around the premises confidently. Resources and provision are of a good standard, are age-appropriate and well-maintained. However, there is one area for improvement to ensure that the environment is fully safe and secure.

The people running the Cylch Meithrin make proactive improvements to the setting. They have many effective policies and procedures and many aspects of the setting are managed appropriately. However, there is one area for improvement to ensure that regulatory procedures are being followed correctly.

Well-being Adequate

Children frequently communicate confidently, and generally, their wishes and needs are considered. For example, children chose to use the painting easel where they had many opportunities to enjoy their experiences mixing paint independently. Children are given some opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. For example, they choose where to sit during snack time and are able to leave the table independently. Children's interests are considered and valued. They are able to make decisions and express their opinion when choosing where to play in the indoor areas and take their time to complete tasks.

Many children arrive at the setting and settle well. They feel safe, happy and are familiar with the morning routine. The change in routine at the end of the morning session and beginning of the afternoon session is a busy period where some children show uncertainty. However, children know that staff are at hand and are comfortable seeking support during these periods, such as sitting on the lap of a member of staff to read a story.

Overall, children interact positively with the majority working together and showing interest when playing together. Many children at the morning session interact openly and are happy to discuss and ask questions. For example, when taking part in an animal activity, many children enjoyed learning the names of animals and repeated those names happily. In the later session, children interact happily overall, whether in groups or by showing resources to visitors. Overall, children and staff interact positively with each other and some children are starting to show empathy.

The majority of children show an interest in their play whether this is by building with wooden blocks, playing in the water, or experimenting with the activities that are prepared for them. They are given opportunities to initiate their own play and are able to relax as they wish. For example, after looking at a book, some children went to look for animals like the ones they saw in the book, naming them confidently. Children are given opportunities to enjoy scientific experiences and experiment with water and lemons. They show enjoyment while concentrating. For example, when responding to the effects of adding items to the water.

Children are given many opportunities to develop their independence skills and they enjoy the freedom to complete tasks independently. For example, when preparing the table for snack time, they enjoy the task of wiping the table. Children are given opportunities to set out cups and plates before enjoying the responsibility of pouring milk or water into the children's cups. They are also given the opportunity to empty their plates into the food bin and enjoy the experience of washing and drying their own dishes. Children wash their hands independently after participating in activities such as painting. They are developing their ability to follow structure and routine and are starting to develop respect for property and people.

Care and Development — Adequate

All members of staff understand their responsibilities and implement the setting's policies to promote healthy lifestyles and children's personal well-being. They understand their responsibilities to safeguard children clearly and can explain the setting's safeguarding procedures. They keep accurate records and follow effective security procedures. For example, when preparing to move across to the school building for lunch, staff prepare a bucket that includes the register, a key and children's medication. Staff follow a clear nappy changing policy and they ensure that the procedures are correct and purposeful. They demonstrate respect and dignity and ensure that they have time to complete records accurately. They have a cleaning system between nappy changes and place a sign on the door of the changing area to ensure that the room is not available during the process. Posters on allergies and medical needs are displayed, and staff are aware of their duties to safeguard children when eating and if they are ill. Staff keep accident and incident records which are signed correctly. They also ensure that they follow cleanliness procedures by wiping tables before snack time, encouraging children to wash and dry their hands and wipe their nose, and keeping the environment clean.

Staff interact in a warm and kind manner. They speak clearly and build children's confidence to understand and to try new things. Staff are good role models and they encourage children to say please and thank you. However, although they understand the behaviour management policy, they did not implement positive strategies to ensure that all children are given attention and opportunities to develop social skills. Staff work hard to promote an ethos of sharing and taking turns. However, we did not see effective or consistent procedures to ensure children listen so that they can learn positive behaviours across their learning experiences.

Staff prepare a range of interesting and purposeful play and learning activities. They are aware of children's individual development and prepare and keep basic planning records. However, staff do not follow a thorough process when observing, recording and planning the next steps. Staff know the children well and work hard to meet children's individual requirements. However, they do not take appropriate actions to support children by working with parents and using the support services that are available to them.

Environment	Adequate

Those responsible for running the setting work hard to develop the environment. They continue to develop the new building that has been purpose-built for the Cylch Meithrin on the school site. Those responsible for running the setting ensure that the environment is safe and secure and individuals cannot gain access to the setting unless a member of staff opens the main door. The regulatory requirements regarding the security of the building are correct. For example, there are measures and policies in place which ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities to keep children and visitors safe. The building is of a good standard indoors and work is ongoing to develop the outdoor play areas. Those responsible for running the setting ensure they follow infection control practices and inform parents and visitors in a clear manner by maintaining detailed information boards. They maintain a fire file and the correct fire equipment and conduct regular fire drills by following clear and effective arrangements. Those responsible for running the setting maintain a visitors book, correct register processes for staff and children, and a first aid kit. A range of risk assessments are in place. However, they were not all fit for purpose. Also, no evidence was shown of annual reviews and dates to ensure that areas, procedures and activities are completely safe. Similarly, the indoor area includes a number of interesting areas, but the electrical equipment was not always located appropriately and was within reach of children at times. Consequently, these matters are an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Those responsible for running the setting work continuously to develop the building as they settle in a new location. They have laid out the indoor area effectively which offers a welcoming, friendly and open environment. Children have easy access to interesting play areas, high quality equipment and purposeful facilities. For example, a toilet area, an area for children's coats and bags and a kitchen where snacks are prepared by staff. There is a fire exit that leads into an additional open area which offers physical and inquisitive learning experiences. However, at the time of the visit, this area was not available to use as there were plans in place to ensure the safety of children. The outdoor area at the front of the setting offers an open space enclosed by a secure fence which is locked when children are playing outside. The indoor resources and provision are of the highest standard and have been arranged in a way that provides interesting and exciting play areas for children, such as areas for water play, art, mark making, experimenting, reading and relaxing.

Those responsible for running the setting provide high-quality indoor and outdoor resources which are appropriate for children's ages and development. They offer plenty of resources to maintain children's interest, such as building equipment, bricks and a work bench, trains and tracks and a farming table. Those responsible for running the setting display children's work which spark their interest, such as a self-portraits display. They celebrate various holidays and notable dates, such as St Dwynwen's Day, Chinese New Year and Ramadan.

Leadership and Management — Adequate

Those responsible for running the setting have a basic vision for the service. They share a statement of purpose which reflects the current service and the setting's policies and procedures meet most of the National Minimum Standards. These are reviewed and contain procedures which are understood by the staff. Those responsible for running the setting try to ensure that they comply with a number of regulations and show that there are processes in place that they are eager to develop further. Those responsible for running the setting provide the Welsh Language ‘Active Offer’. This is a clear aspect of the work and ethos of the setting and staff implement this consistently. Those responsible for running the setting ensure that the regulatory paperwork is well-organised, such as children's registration files, and keep records in a safe place on site. They manage numbers and staff to children ratios accurately and supervise children in a satisfactory manner.

The people running the setting evaluate the care appropriately and introduce improvements following the process. They complete a quality of care report and collate the views of parents, children and staff to consider improvements and developments continuously.

Those responsible for running the setting work closely with staff to support them and staff are happy and work hard to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. They maintain staff files and continue to develop these to ensure they are organised and consistent. Those responsible for running the setting undertake some appraisals and follow a basic process for supervision. However, not all members of staff had completed the full process. Similarly, staff receive training but not all members of staff had completed the mandatory courses. While no immediate action is required this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action.

Those responsible for running the setting have good partnerships with the school where the Cylch Meithrin is based, along with effective links with supportive professionals. Staff said that they had settled in the setting and that they feel that they are given support and encouragement to develop further. Those responsible for running the setting are dedicated to working closely with the community and parents, such as with support to develop the outdoor areas. Parents are complimentary about the way in which information is shared and said that their children have settled quickly and were happy.

Summary of non-compliance	
Status	**What each one 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

25	The provider must ensure that risk assessments contain purposeful updates including assessments on any new resources, and annual reviews to ensure areas, procedures and activities are safe and free from hazards. Additionally, within the main playroom area, the provider must ensure that all electrical equipment is kept in safe and appropriate areas and out of children's reach.	New
29	The provider must ensure that all staff receive annual appraisals and regular supervisions. Additionally, the provider must ensure that all staff attend mandatory training.	New

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 will highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will consider them at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 9 - Behaviour	Ensure staff promote the setting's behaviour policy to ensure they manage and promote children's welfare and development in order to nurture a positive approach to managing behaviour.
Standard 8 - Nurture and well-being	Ensure staff implement effective and consistent strategies to promote warm relationships in a responsive and nurturing environment where communication and listening are promoted positively within children's learning experiences.
Standard 4 - Meeting individual needs	Ensure staff plan for and meet individual needs and preferences of children and work with parents and services so that appropriate steps or support are taken.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure what children do is observed and recorded to help plan the next steps for children's learning and development.

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.

Was this report helpful?

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports, please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- Inspection report survey

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our Feedback surveys page.

Date Published 02/08/2024