Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Traed Bech Twymyn

Neuadd Cemaes
Cemaes
Machynlleth
SY20 9PR

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

27/09/2023

About Cylch Meithrin Traed Bech Twymyn

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Meithrin Traed Bech Twymyn
Registered places	12
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	17 March 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote 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.

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Summary

This was a focused inspection, and on this occasion, we did not consider the themes care and development, environment and leadership and management in full.

Children are settled and cope with separation from their parents. They have formed positive emotional attachments and have bonds of affection with care staff who know them well. Children feel happy and comfortable at the setting.

Care staff are consistent in their approach, they have regard to individual children and model good behaviour. Care staff provide a nurturing and caring atmosphere and treat children with dignity and respect.

Children are cared for in a safe, clean and secure environment. The premises is well maintained and there are suitable facilities, resources and equipment. Children have access to furniture and toys that are appropriate and suitable for their needs.

The people who run the setting have addressed the non-compliance identified in the two priority action notices and the area for improvement issued at the last inspection. They have addressed most of the recommendations. However, two remain outstanding and are outlined at the end of the report. These will be tested at the next full inspection.

Well-being

Children have some opportunities to make choices and decisions. Some children chose to play with tabletop puzzles and jigsaws while others chose to play with the vehicles and tractors. During circle time, children who did not want to sit on the mat were allowed to pull up a chair to sit and listen. They carefully identify the days of the week and the weather outside before deciding which song they would like to listen to.

Children are starting to show empathy and are becoming sensitive to the needs of others. We saw children stroking each other's head to support and comfort each other when feeling sad. Children are generally engaged in their play and learning. They enjoy a reasonable selection of appropriate opportunities indoors and outdoors and can also relax and have quiet times. Children sustained a period of concentration whilst exploring the interactive fire engine, listening to the different sounds. Others enjoy playing with the sensory toys, using the fibre optic lights to tickle each other, laughing, smiling, and saying "*tickle, tickle*".

Children sometimes have freedom to safely explore the outdoor environment. Although children do not decide when they would like to play outside, they are taken outside to play as a group during fair weather. We saw children enjoy collecting the fallen autumnal leaves outside in preparation for using these to create an autumn themed picture of a hedgehog.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do some things for themselves for example, children eat independently and attempt to put back on their shoes. However, opportunities to develop independence further continues to be missed especially during snack time.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Care staff implement appropriate cleaning and hygiene procedures. For example, care staff ensure children wash their hands with soap and water before eating their food. During nappy change, care staff wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow correct procedures. Antibacterial spray is used to wipe down surfaces and regular touch points.

Care staff understand the behaviour management policy and generally implement positive behaviour management strategies. Care staff intervene calmly, quickly, and appropriately. For example, when children want the same jigsaw pieces, care staff introduce another jigsaw puzzle.

Care staff demonstrate warmth and kindness. They play alongside the children and talk to children at their level. Staff reward children with stickers. For example, for sitting nicely at the table while eating their snack. Care staff treat children with dignity and respect. For example, they quickly notice when children have accidents and address any issues in privacy. Care staff respect children's wishes. For example, they quickly respond to requests for more crackers.

Care staff understand and implement the Welsh Government's best practice guidance, '*Food and Nutrition for childcare settings'*. They prepare healthy snacks and a warm cooked lunch for the children. During snack time, care staff prepare nutritious snacks such as buttered crackers and apple slices on plates for the children and water to drink in beakers. Care staff remind children not to eat any snacks they've dropped on the floor. However, care staff miss some opportunities to develop children's independence especially during meal-times.

Since the last inspection, care staff have made improvements to the sleep routines at the setting. Care staff now ensure a record is kept of where children are sleeping and the temperature of that area. The person in charge now plans out and records a daily activity for the children in her diary. For example, around the theme autumn, collecting and printing leaves. The person in charge also produces a report on children's progress, which they send home to the parents. However, care staff observations to track children's progress are not kept after the report is produced and are not embedded in future planning.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Since the last inspection, leaders have completed the development work on the outside area. They have ensured that privacy fencing has been erected to one side of the space and there are sufficient resources such as ride on toys, mud kitchen and water play. Care staff now ensure that children have access to the outdoors regularly.

Leaders have purchased new resources and developed a sensory area within the environment. There is new equipment to section off areas of the playroom to ensure safety of younger children. Beds are now available for children who wish to use them at sleep times.

Leaders hold regular fire drills, ensuring that everyone involved knows how to leave the setting safely in an emergency. Records of fire drills are now recorded and saved appropriately.

Leadership and Management

This was a focused inspection to consider non-compliance, and so we have not considered this theme in full. However, there have been sufficient improvements to enable us to change the corresponding rating of ‘poor’ awarded at the last inspection to ‘adequate’.

Leaders ensure there is a sufficient number of suitably qualified staff present at all times and ensure they conduct suitability checks before staff start working at the service. Leaders confirmed that all volunteers have recently had a DBS check completed. A sample of staff files viewed confirmed these were in place and included all relevant information. Leaders have recently employed an additional qualified member of staff. As a result, the priority action notices issued at the last inspection are now closed.

Leaders ensure that they keep accurate records of children’s information. Children’s files are now completed before the child attends the setting. The children’s files viewed include the relevant documents as noted in the regulations. Children’s contracts and parental permissions are signed by the parents. As a result, the area for improvement raised at the last inspection is now closed.

The people who run the setting are committed to improving the setting and have addressed matters raised in the non-compliance issued at the last inspection.

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
27	The Responsible Individual must ensure there is at least 80% non-supervisory staff holding a qualification to at least level two from Social Care Wales' Qualifications Framework.	Achieved
28	The Responsible Individual must ensure care staff and volunteer suitability checks are completed prior to working with children.	Achieved

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
30	The responsible individual must be consistent in keeping clear and accurate records for all children attending the setting.	Achieved

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 8 - Nurture and well-being	Continue to ensure that children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Continue to embed a system to track children's progress and use this to plan provision and develop future learning and experiences.

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