Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Nantgaredig a'r Fro

Felingwm Communinty Centre, Felingwm Old Schhol, Felimgwm Uchaf, Carmarthen, SA32 7PR

07873388033

The inspection visits for this service took place between 18/09/2025 and 22/09/2025

Service Information:

Operated by:	Cylch Meithrin Nantgaredig a'r Fro
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	16
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 service provider anticipates, identifies, and meets the Welsh language and culture needs of people.

Ratings:

Well-being	Good
Care & Development	Good
Environment	Good
Leadership & Management	Good

Summary:

Children are happy and communicate confidently with their peers, staff and visitors. They develop strong relationships. Overall, children are independent and are given choices and opportunities to express their opinion in the knowledge that their voices will be heard.

Staff are experienced and understand and follow policies and procedures to promote well-being and safety. Staff encourage children to express themselves and interact with them in a very positive and caring manner. They plan appropriately to meet children's interests.

The people running the setting ensure that the environment is safe and secure and set clear guidance to ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities. They offer a good range of resources to meet children's individual needs and stages of development both indoors and outdoors. Children have daily access to an appropriate outdoor area.

Leaders are developing an understanding of the regulations and national minimum standards. Leaders and staff are enthusiastic and ensure they offer a high standard of care to the children.

Leaders have developed positive relationships with parents and carers and work closely with them to ensure effective care and support to all children who attend the setting. They have an effective system in place to review the service annually.

Findings:

Well-being — Good

Children are happy and thoroughly enjoy their time at Cylch Meithrin Nantgaredig a'r Fro. They have a strong voice at this setting and have a good choice of play opportunities and resources. Children move freely from one activity to another and are asked what they would like to do next. They have formed good relationships with staff and their peers. They have good bonds of affection with staff who are kind, gentle and warm. For example, children arrive happily and cuddle staff members. Children are active and express enjoyment in their play. They have a sense of belonging and they are clearly familiar with daily routines. Children feel safe and happy. They like the freedom to choose play areas within the room and in the outdoor play area. Children are learning to understand their feelings and show delight. For example, children smile and chat to one another happily about their families and interests during snack time.

Children communicate confidently with staff and their peers, and their wishes, feelings and needs are considered. One child asked a staff member if they could sit by them during snack time. Children's views and interests are valued ensuring their individual well-being. Their needs and preferences are considered. For example, not all children wanted to take part in the singing session and this was respected. Children feel a sense of achievement. They smile as they are praised for tidying and carrying a box of resources.

Children interact positively. They work together and socialise in a friendly manner. Children show respect and care towards one another. For example, they take turns as they climb the ladder to access the slide. Most children understand how to take turns, wait and share. The interaction between the children and staff demonstrates that children develop good communication skills. During outdoor play we observed a child and staff member playing together, pretending to pass items back and forth through the window of the playhouse. Indoors, children chat and describe what they're doing as they role play in the kitchen, *"Fi'n neud bwyd"*. (I'm making food.) Children develop appropriate independent skills. During snack, a child stated confidently, *"fi'n gallu agor e"* (I can open it) as they attempted to open a lidded pot. Children feed themselves independently and are provided opportunities to pour their drinks at snack time.

Most children are active learners. They take part in activities enthusiastically. They show interest and excitement as they access the sand tray with diggers and as they take part in small world play. Photographs and samples of work evidence they enjoy a good range of opportunities both indoors and outdoors. For example, planting seeds to grow vegetables as well as artwork based on annual themes including fireworks, winter and so on.

Care & Development — Good

The setting is run by experienced staff who understand and effectively implement policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, safety and personal well-being. Nearly all staff have completed safeguarding and food hygiene training. However, at present, only one staff member has completed paediatric first aid training. The setting is registered to care for 16 children and The National Minimum Standards stipulate there should be one staff member qualified in first aid for every ten children. This does not have a negative impact on children at present as the leader ensures no more than ten children attend the session. During the visit, the leader confirmed training has been arranged for another staff member and this will take place shortly. Staff ensure children are provided opportunities to play outside daily if the weather allows. They follow appropriate hygiene guidance when serving food, helping children who need to go to the toilet and changing nappies. The leader purchased a new nappy changing mat during the inspection process. The leaders ensure healthy snacks and drinks are provided, and children are encouraged to bring a healthy packed lunch from home. Staff have a sound understanding of the setting's safeguarding procedures and have completed the appropriate training. They keep accurate records of the children and staff attendance. They record accident and incident logs, and parents or carers sign these.

Staff understand the behaviour management policy and act as very positive role models. They listen attentively to children's views and respond carefully to their needs. Staff promote and scaffold positive behaviours with children such as turn taking and sharing. We heard staff remind children kindly to take turns as they accessed the play side, *"Gei di fynd nesaf".* (You can go next.) Staff interactions with children are positive and kind, and they consistently treat children with dignity and respect. For example, they are thoughtful and caring when dealing with children's feelings and needs in relation to personal comforters. Staff can tell us, with pride, how well children have settled and developed since attending the setting. Staff show genuine care and passion in their roles.

Staff are committed to providing a good range of play and learning activities suitable for the age and development of children in their care. We saw staff supporting and extending children's understanding in their play and learning. For example, introducing new vocabulary when looking at books together as well as discussing the colours of the scarecrow. Staff use Welsh throughout the session to further extend development. We heard songs in Welsh and listened to children joining in. Staff recognise when children may have additional needs and take purposeful action. Staff plan activities weekly and assess children through observations, however the planning does not currently include the progression of developmental skills. Staff have in-depth knowledge of individual children and this in turn is effective in meeting their needs.

Environment — Good

The setting is located in the community hall. It provides a clean, warm and safe environment. The setting has a suitable level of security, and the main entrance is locked. The setting is clean, tidy, well maintained and very welcoming. Leaders ensure that daily and general risk assessments are conducted and reviewed regularly. Following the visit, the leader updated risk assessments in relation to the slide indoors. Safety checks are mostly in place; however, PAT testing has expired. Fire drills are carried out and recorded in detail. Leaders ensure that the ratio of care staff to children is correct, ensuring they supervise children very well. Children can access the toilets with care staff ensuring that clear and safe arrangements are in place. A visitors' book, children's and staff register are used efficiently, ensuring the safety and security of the children and the setting.

The indoor area is spacious with play areas set up for the children on a daily basis. Due to the hall being used by the community, the leader and staff member have to set up and pack away on a daily basis, which is very challenging. Leaders make certain the environment has very good indoor play space which children freely explore. The leader told us children benefit from seasonal wall displays and children's work is routinely displayed which strengthens their connection to the space. However, during the visit, displays were minimal due to the hall being used for an event. Children have access to a dedicated outside play area. Here, children can ride bikes, play in the mud kitchen and playhouse as well as access other resources including balls.

Leaders provide a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources to ensure children have a good variety and choice to stimulate curiosity. They promote children's understanding of multi culturalism and diversity by offering activities along with a small range of resources, for example Chinese New Year, Diwali and Santes Dwynwen. There are play areas set up, such as a book corner, role play area, sand play, slide and a craft and painting area. Staff promote play opportunities through varied tabletop activities, craft activities and tasks which develop fine and gross motor skills. Children can access the toys and resources easily, as they are stored at low level or within their reach. Staff ensure that resources are well maintained and in a good condition. Leaders provide suitable furniture and resources to support children's independence. There are a suitable number of children's toilets and nappy changing facilities available, which are clean and well maintained.

Leadership & Management — Good

Leadership and management is developing due to a new responsible individual and committee. They are very supportive and ensure the smooth running of the setting. Policies and procedures are in place and have been recently reviewed. The Statement of Purpose reflects the service that is provided to children and families and meet the National Minimum Standards. Children's files, medication, accident, and incident logs are all completed correctly and available to view. Leaders have engaged positively with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and are keen to drive improvement. They ensure all required records are organised and accurately kept.

Leaders follow timely and robust recruitment processes to safeguard children and follow the setting's policy and procedures. The people who run the setting implement safe recruitment procedures to safeguard children and staff files are complete following the inspection visit. They ensure staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are up to date. There is a performance management process in place and staff and leaders have annual appraisals and regular supervisions. However, not all supervisions are recorded. Leaders ensure staff complete mandatory training, however opportunities to attend and complete further professional development is limited. Leaders have contingency plans in place in the event of staff sickness or absences. All staff promote the Welsh language.

They actively implement self-evaluation and produce a thorough and reflective quality-of-care report, seeking and implementing the views of children, parents, and staff. The quality-of-care review is a purposeful document which strives to drive improvement and provide an effective service at the setting.

Overall, leaders have a good partnership with the wider community including the local feeder school which helps the children with the transition process into school. Leaders and staff have developed meaningful and positive relationships with parents and carers. They ensure parents and carers are kept informed through daily face-to face discussions as well as a private social media page. Feedback received from parents during the inspection process were very positive. Good communication, thorough support and caring staff are highlighted as particular strengths.

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.

CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.

CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.

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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Further develop the planning of activities to reflect progression of skills.
Standard 13 (Day Care) - Suitable Person	Ensure one to one supervisions are formally recorded.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Further develop the range of multi cultural, natural and sustainable resources on offer to children.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure the number of children attending runs in line with the number of staff qualified in first aid.
Standard 13 (Day Care) - Suitable Person	Ensure opportunities are made available for staff professional development.

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)
Ensure PAT testing is carried out on annual basis.

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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