Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Flying Start Nantymoel

Nanty Moel Community Association, 8 Ogwy Street Nantymoel, Bridgend, CF32 7SE

07773125481

The inspection visit took place on 07/05/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Bridgend County Borough Council Child Care and Play Services
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	16
Main language(s):	English
Flying Start service:	Yes
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider makes an effort to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture or is working towards a bilingual service.

Ratings:

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

Summary:

Children settle extremely well, are happy and thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting. They have excellent opportunities for play and learning within an extremely nurturing setting. Children's opinions and interests are valued and acted on. Most children interact confidently with their friends and staff, and they benefit from warm, responsive care that promotes their well-being.

Staff give exceptional care that promotes children's safety, health and development. They understand and implement policies and procedures effectively to promote the safety and wellbeing of children. Staff demonstrate highly effective practice, forming warm, respectful relationships and providing nurturing, responsive support. They create rich, child-led learning experiences that build confidence, independence and curiosity.

The environment is clean, welcoming and well organised, with best use made of the space available. They maintain the environment well, offering high-quality resources and creating calm,

inviting spaces that promote independence. Staff plan indoor and outdoor areas well, offering varied opportunities for exploration, challenge and play. They follow procedures to ensure the environment is safe and suitable, completing risk assessments and daily checks consistently.

The leadership and management of the setting is strong. Leaders are passionate and committed to providing high quality childcare. They maintain clear policies, effective oversight and robust staff development. There is a clear culture of continuous improvement and building strong partnerships with parents and others for the benefit of the children.

Findings:

Well-being — Excellent

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at Flying Start Nantymoel. Their happiness and needs are the driving force of this setting. Children cope extremely well with separation and daily transitions are effectively implemented. They form positive emotional attachments with staff and each other. Children are very happy at this setting. We observed children smiling, laughing, and enjoying themselves. They have a strong sense of belonging and are very familiar with the routines of the day.

Children are confident communicators and all attempts at communication are valued and actively encouraged. They engage cheerfully with their friends and staff. Some children felt comfortable to chat and involve us in their play and learning. Children's voices are strong and their opinions and needs are highly valued, acted upon and continually reviewed, for example children confidently state *'I want that one'* as they choose from the selection of bikes and equipment on offer for them. They are enthusiastic and very self-motivated to influence their own tasks and activities. Children have ample freedom to explore their environment safely and fully participate in the setting as child led tasks and activities are the primary focus.

Children are listened to and have many opportunities to make choices about what they want to do. They share their views confidently*, 'I want to play.'* They decide what they would like to play with from an excellent range of developmentally appropriate and stimulating resources. This promotes their all-round development, enabling them to follow their own interests with confidence. They move freely across the inviting play spaces and access an extensive range of high-quality activities. We observed children using the play foam bricks as telephones and engaging in conversation with a staff member whilst others selected paint colours from dispenser bottles to create artwork. Children make meaningful choices throughout the day, such as selecting songs to sing and choosing which foods to try at snack time.

Children's self-help skills and independence are developing extremely well. For example, children access the portable sink via steps to wash their hands independently, pour their own drinks and clear their plates into recycling after snack time. They assist with tidy up after play, wear their own safety helmets before riding the balance bike and attempt to wear their all-in ones and wellingtons for outdoor play.

Care & Development — Excellent

Staff provide an outstanding level of care that supports children's health, safety and development. They understand their roles clearly and carry them out with confidence and consistency. Staff form trusting relationships with the children and interact with them in a calm and caring manner. They follow a comprehensive set of policies and procedures that promote children's wellbeing to a very high standard. They have a clear understanding of safeguarding procedures and their responsibilities to keep children safe and report any concerns. Staff have a thorough understanding of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. They are confident in recording accidents and incidents. Leaders evaluate accidents and incidents to identify any trends and to monitor where and how these are happening throughout the setting and any actions needed as a follow up. Healthy eating is given high priority and menus evidence the provision of healthy meals and snacks. Staff ensure children have access to daily outdoor play experiences, offering them the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air.

They act as excellent role models; staff genuinely listen and respect the children's views and prompt manners when appropriate, for example during snack time. They consistently offer praise and encouragement and implement the behaviour management policy effectively by using positive reinforcement. Staff ensure children know what is expected of them by clearly explaining instructions and consequences, for example the requirement to wear a safety helmet or they risk hurting themselves on the balance bikes. They praise children when they share and take turns, *"There we go, good sharing."*

Staff support children's curiosity and consistently allow them opportunities to explore and experiment independently, for example offering pipe cleaners in the sand to imitate worms, compost and muffin trays to create 'cakes' along with real tea bags and water to create tea outdoors. They ensure children are at the centre of their own learning and development by enabling them to follow their own interests. Staff make observations of children during activities and support children to further develop their skills. For example, during sand play, staff extend the activity by offering additional equipment including tweezers, magnifying glass and binoculars to explore the sand. The setting provides a friendly feel where children can confidently play energetically or quietly. They are committed to providing a wide range of play and learning activities through planning in the moment, which ensures they successfully follow the children's lead. Staff effectively support children's language skills. We observed staff reminding children *'tell me, use your words'* as they point at the fruit they want during snack time. They also encourage and include some basic Welsh words, phrases and songs along with the promotion of Welsh word of the week.

Staff recognise when children may have additional needs. They take purposeful action and make effective use of the support available. Robust systems are in place to monitor and identify any emerging or additional learning needs children may have. Staff work well with outside agencies to children and show determination in ensuring there are no barriers to play and learning.

Environment — Good

Leaders ensure that the environment offered is safe, clean and well-maintained. The setting is based within a community hall, which requires areas to be set up and packed away on a daily basis. Leaders and staff work extremely hard to ensure areas set up are inviting, well-resourced and welcoming. They ensure areas of learning support and encourage children's play and learning effectively. Leaders ensure a secure system for entry to the setting and staff ensure that all visitors are signed into the service. Staff complete daily checklists to identify any matters that need addressing such as health, safety and hygiene. All safety checks and maintenance checks are undertaken by the leaders of the community hall. We viewed safety check documentation, and all are completed in a timely manner, including fire extinguishers, emergency lighting, smoke alarms and electrical testing. Fire drills take place regularly, and children know what to do in an emergency. They have good infection control practices which successfully minimise the risk to children's health and safety.

Leaders routinely assess risks across the environment. They consider the suitability of resources, and specific activities, such as making playdough. However, during the inspection, a small number of risks had not been fully considered in relation to play areas outdoors and access to the balance bike and ride ons indoors. Leaders responded promptly and created updated risk assessments which they shared with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

Leaders use neutral colours, natural materials, soft furnishings and warm lighting to create inviting spaces that support children's sense of security and belonging. They have chosen low-level furniture and accessible storage to help children select resources independently. Staff encourage children to explore open-ended materials such as natural items, wooden blocks, dry foods and loose parts. Staff offer real-life objects that enrich learning and deepen play. They ensure photographs of children and their families are displayed in the home corner along with some examples of their own work on display which promotes the feeling of belonging and pride. There are sufficient toilets within the hall, and nappy changing facilities are appropriate for the ages cared for.

They organise the outdoor area well, providing varied opportunities for physical exploration, with chalkboards, water and sand play, planting, construction and a mud kitchen offering purposeful challenge and appropriate risk. Leaders told us children visit the local charity shop which provides them opportunities to select their own items and in turn ownership of the environment. They ensure equipment is kept clean, safe and well maintained, and drinking water stations indoors as well as access to their drinks outdoors support children's independence.

Leadership & Management — Excellent

Leaders are skilled and experienced and manage the setting extremely well. They have a strong vision for the service that they confidently share with others. Leaders share their clear and inspirational vision for the setting in a very thorough and clear Statement of Purpose. It accurately reflects the service provided to children and their families and runs in line with the National Minimum Standards and regulations. There is a strong ethos of child-centred care, and this is evident when you speak to leaders and staff. Leaders maintain detailed policies and procedures that clearly show how the setting operates. Staff maintain daily records such as accidents, incidents and existing injuries well. Leaders have good oversight of records which enables them to address any emerging matters effectively.

Leaders manage staff exceptionally well and this is a real strength of the setting. It leads to a team of happy and dedicated staff. There is a real feeling of '*teamwork',* and this was consistently observed in the working relationships between all staff and smooth running of the setting. Staff spoken to during the inspection spoke positively and passionately about the joy the role provides along with support they receive, *'Best job ever', 'I love working here' and 'I feel really well supported here and we are such a close team.'* Leaders ensure that documentation is well organised and easily accessible. Staff files are thorough and all relevant safety checks are completed to ensure all staff are suitable to work with children. There is a clear system in place to easily identify that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are current. Staff have up to date mandatory training such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. There is a culture of continuing professional development. Regular appraisals and supervisions are conducted with staff, so information is shared effectively, and training needs are identified. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to ensure children are always well cared for. Leaders collate feedback in a very detailed quality of care report which celebrates the setting's achievements and helps plan for future improvements. Clear targets are set which reflect current best practice. The report considers the views of children, staff and parents.

Excellent links have been developed between staff and parents. Parents we spoke with told us that they are extremely happy with the care provided to their children. There is excellent communication between the setting and parents including detailed daily verbal feedback. People who use the service told us, *"They're amazing here. Really approachable and so supportive. My child has come on so much with language and social skills. We are provided face to face meetings to discuss development too."*

Leaders have established strong and well embedded links with a wide range of professionals and the local community. The setting also has strong transition processes with the local primary school to provide consistent care and ensure a smooth transition. The setting makes regular use of the facilities in the local community including visits to the local shops and local professionals often visit the setting to provide real experiences for children including the police and the fire service.

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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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