Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Meithrinfa Dydd Ser Bach Cylch Waunceirch

Owain Glyndwr Community Centre
Llwyn Helyg
Neath
SA10 7BZ

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

28/11/2024

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About Meithrinfa Dydd Ser Bach Cylch Waunceirch

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Meithrinfa Dydd ser bach/ little stars day nursery
Registered places	19
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection.
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes.
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.

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

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

Summary

Children are happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They develop well as they follow their interests and confidently explore their play environment. Children interact positively with their friends and staff, co-operating and playing happily together. Their independence skills are developing as they participate in a variety of experiences.

Staff engage well with children and respond to their needs effectively. They plan a range of fun activities led by the children's interests and simultaneously encourage a free play learning environment. Staff have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy.

The environment is safe, clean and mostly secure. There is a very large play space indoors and outdoors. There is a sufficient selection of resources and experiences to encourage the children to play and learn independently.

Leaders manage the service adequately. They are mainly organised and maintain most of the required documents well. They have a system for evaluating and improving their setting. Leaders adequately manage the recruitment of staff. They develop positive partnerships with parents who are happy with the care their children receive.

Well-being Good

Children make purposeful choices and move around the setting confidently. For example, they freely choose resources in the role play area and explore the book corner independently. Some children express themselves clearly using words and phrases whilst others communicate and express their wants and needs using non-verbal cues such as pointing or shaking their heads.

Children arrive eagerly and settle in well. They form close bonds with staff, which has a positive impact on their well-being and motivation. When needed, children seek gentle comfort and reassurance from staff. For example, they approach them when they are tired or need assurance and feel immediately comforted by them.

Children are enthusiastic and enjoy opportunities to play and learn. They show a keen interest and engage well in most of the experiences available to them. Many children show curiosity and explore a variety of play opportunities. For example, they show excitement when a staff member reads a book, engaging well with the story. Most children concentrate for an appropriate length of time and respond positively to encouragement from staff. For example, when invited to complete a craft activity. They listen to instructions well, for example when they are asked to help to tidy up. Children thoroughly enjoy the free flow opportunities and freedom to explore the indoor environment.

Children develop their independence skills effectively. They know the routine well and take their coats and bags off and place them, with some help, in storage. Many children complete self-care tasks independently. For example, they visit the toilet, wash and dry their hands. Children successfully learn to serve themselves at snack time, with little support from staff.

Care and Development — Good

Staff implement the settings policies and procedures effectively. The safeguarding policy meets requirements. Staff have completed their safeguarding training and respond appropriately to safeguarding scenarios. They follow effective hygiene procedures consistently. For example, they wash their hands regularly and wipe down surfaces. Staff are knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities in relation to keeping children healthy. They give children safety messages, for example, to use the correct side of the slide as they may hurt themselves. An accident, incident and medication book is in place.

Staff communicate well with children and create a calm and relaxed atmosphere. They are positive role models for children and interact purposefully with them throughout the session. For example, they sit with children during snack time, modelling good social and communication skills. Staff share a positive approach to managing children's behaviour and follow the setting's behaviour management policy effectively. They have developed a successful range of strategies to promote positive behaviour, such as a range of distraction methods. Staff move around the play areas supporting children with their play and constantly talking to them promoting language and communication skills successfully. They praise children for using their words and sharing resources and this has a beneficial impact on children's behaviour and self-esteem. We heard staff say, *"Well done, good boy/girl" and "Da iawn"*.

Staff support children's learning and development effectively. They focus well on the interests of the child, their individual needs and development. The current theme is 'yellow' and staff encourage the use of the colour at every opportunity. For example, when a child ate a banana, staff ask, 'what colour is your banana?', with the child successfully responding. They regularly observe children's play and learning to track their progress and this helps staff plan activities to enable children's next steps in their learning and development. They have a daily routine/play plan and provide interesting opportunities, which are led by the child's choices and decisions. Staff are aware of children's individual needs and preferences. Staff work well together as a team to build the children's confidence and resilience. Most staff are fluent Welsh speakers, promoting the language well at the setting.

Environment — Adequate

Leaders have satisfactory measures and policies in place to ensure that the environment is safe and secure. For example, external doors are kept locked, access is controlled, and visitors are recorded. Leaders have general risk assessments in place; however, these are not current. At the time of the inspection, several potential risks to children's health, hygiene and safety were identified. Children's sleeping arrangements and the resources used are not appropriate and the hall space is not divided sufficiently enough to prevent children from knocking into each other during activities. Leaders told us they carry out and record fire drills regularly to ensure that staff and children know how to evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency. However, no records were available during the inspection. A heating test safety certificate was not available for inspection. Following the inspection, leaders provided satisfactory records and certificates.

Leaders ensure the environment has good indoor play spaces for children to move freely. Children move confidently around, utilizing the floor space, quiet areas, craft space and physical play area. The setting runs from a very large hall within the community centre and is adequately divided into a space for physical play and table top/floor play. Although the setting has sole use of the hall when in operation, other users of the community centre share the space. Therefore, the layout and contents of the hall are set up and put away on a daily basis. Children's toilets are easily accessible, which allows for the development of independence. There is a very large outdoor grassed play space for physical play and fresh air. We did not observe outdoor play during our visit. Leaders told us that they have purchased fencing to enclose a smaller space for better supervision and safety of the children. However, this has not been erected to date.

Leaders ensure that children can access an appropriate variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment. Resources are appropriate for the ages of the children attending. Staff ensure a sufficient amount are set up and available daily. They ensure resources are rotated to help maintain an interesting environment and use boards to display some of the children's own art work and setting information.

Leadership and Management — Adequate

Leaders do not always manage the service appropriately. The service has recently registered under a new management team. They have a current statement of purpose

which reflects the service provided. Leaders keep most of the regulatory information about the children including contracts, personal details, and permissions for children. A register for children's attendance is in place, however, the staff attendance register did not detail the actual attendance times of staff and did not record times when staff left the premises, e.g. for school runs. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. They have a wide range of policies and procedures in place, to include safeguarding and behaviour management, however, they are not current to the new management of the service. Leaders do not always follow policies closely and failed to respond to CIW requests for information in a timely manner. Following the inspection, leaders complied with the requests for information. Appropriate and valid vehicle documentation is in place, however, parental consent to transport children in a vehicle has not been obtained. The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) certificate and the public liability insurance certificate were not available for inspection. Following the inspection, leaders provided valid certificates.

Leaders have a suitable system in place to review the quality of care of their service. They are within their first year of operation under new management/registration, therefore a report to consider future improvements of the service is not yet due.

Leaders ensure they employ suitably qualified staff and staff working towards the required qualifications to work at the setting. They mostly follow a safe recruitment process to safeguard children. However, some staff files did not contain all the necessary required suitability checks. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders ensure staff attend a range of training, including all mandatory training such as safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene. However, the leader has not completed the required safeguarding course to date. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. Leaders have not undertaken staff supervision, although staff members have been employed for some time. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. As the service is within its first year of operation under new management/registration, annual appraisals are not yet due.

Leaders ensure that communication systems with parents are good. They keep parents informed through daily written and verbal feedback. No feedback has been received from parents using the service.

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.

Area(s) for Improvement		
Regulation	Summary	Status
9	The provider must complete appropriate training to ensure that they have the experience and skills	New

	necessary to provide day care.	
25	Risk assessments must be current and include all identified risks and how these risks will be reduced or eliminated.	New
30	The provider must record staff attendance at the service, to include when staff leave the premises and respond to requests for information in a timely manner.	New
28	The provider must ensure that all required suitability checks have been received prior to employment of staff.	New
29	The provider must ensure that staff receive regular formal supervision sessions.	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 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 24 - Safety	Ensure parental permission is obtained to transport children in vehicles.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure the outdoor space is securely sectioned off.

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)
Ensure the large hall is safely divided, creating a clear physical play area.
Ensure bins have lids.
Ensure that all records and documentation used are current and relate to the newly registered service.

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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