Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Dolwerdd

The Powerstation, Blenheim Road St. Dials, Cwmbran, NP44 4SY

07415 045852

The inspection visit took place on 17/06/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Cylch Meithrin Dolwerdd
Care Type:	Children's Day Care
Registered places:	12
Main language(s):	Both
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	Adequate
Care & Development	Adequate
Environment	Adequate
Leadership & Management	Poor

Summary:

Children are well settled and enjoy attending the setting. They are listened to and their views are considered. They enjoy their play and are developing. They have formed relationships with each other and staff, which helps them feel safe and valued. Children can make some choices about how they spend their time, have opportunities to develop skills, and are confident in their environment.

Children benefit from warm relationships with motivated staff who have a suitable understanding of each child and are able to meet their needs adequately. Care giving is relaxed and interactions are managed appropriately. Staff are kind, caring and interact well with children. Staff keep children safe and implement suitable routines, policies, and procedures. They provide suitable play opportunities which children enjoy.

In the main, leaders and staff ensure the environment is secure and safe. They provide a

welcoming, suitably organised environment for children to enjoy. Play areas and equipment are clean and maintained. The setting has suitable resources, stored in a way that means children can access them independently. However, many resources are plastic, single-purpose toys, with little inclusion of natural materials and open-ended resources which would enrich children's experiences.

Leaders do not ensure parents and children receive a consistent, quality service which is well run and with due regard paid to the regulations and National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare. We found several areas where leaders fail to meet the requirements of the regulations, which impact on the well-being and experiences of children being cared for, as well as practice recommendations to address.

Findings:

Well-being — Adequate

Children are confident and make decisions about what they want to play with. They join in enthusiastically with activities. They have choice over their activities as all activities are child led rather than planned by staff. We saw children choose playdough, small world dinosaurs, cars, and construction. When they voice their preferences, these are listened to, such as a request for a certain resource. Children feel confident in the setting. All of children's attempts at communication listened to, responded to, and respected, such as when young children are not ready to sit for a story or snack and staff promote inclusive practice by allowing them to choose what they would prefer.

Children are content and settled at the nursery. They have developed warm relationships with staff and are confident to approach them for guidance or comfort. Children benefit from staff who are warm and considerate of them, providing lots of comfort and encouragement. Children form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They play happily together or alongside each other. We saw children enjoy playing and persevering with construction toys and balancing games.

Children co-operate, take turns and share, and their behaviour is becoming guided by their sensitivity to the emotions of others. They demonstrate a good understanding of what is expected of them whilst they are at the setting. Children are well behaved for most of the time and play co-operatively with their peers. Their interactions with staff are respectful and they respond well to requests and any guidance on their behaviour. Children are developing a sense of right and wrong and are becoming self-disciplined.

Children enjoy their play and concentrate on activities for an appropriate amount of time. They are active and curious, confident to move between activities freely, but also sustain interest in activities of their choosing. The children laugh and joke together and tease each other and staff playfully. Children have made friendships, playing well together, racing on cars, and making up imaginative play as police engaged in a chase, or as firemen.

Children are encouraged to do some things for themselves. They help staff tidy away their toys into boxes before lunch and clear their plates after meals. They can access the toilet facilities themselves and wash their own hands. Their drinks bottles are stored on a countertop, and we saw children helping themselves to these as they wanted them. Children have opportunities to follow their interests and develop their learning and play through the free access nature of the provision.

Care & Development — Adequate

In the main, staff are effective in their roles. They are clear about their responsibilities and have suitable knowledge of how to keep children safe and healthy on a day-to-day basis. Staff understand their role in safeguarding children. They recognise signs and symptoms of abuse and are aware of their responsibility to report concerns to the relevant authorities. They follow procedures for recording the administering of medication, accidents, incidents, and existing injuries. Snacks provided by the setting in the morning and afternoon are healthy and nutritious. Staff provide access to physical exercise; time outdoors for play is included every day, is valued and we saw children enjoy this very much. Staff maintain registers of children and staff attendance, but they do not include full names or times of attendance, which can impact on the safety of children and staff. Leaders have not ensured there is a reliable system in place for staff to practice fire drills with the children, which is required by the regulations and impacts on the safety of children and staff. Records and fire drills are addressed further within the Leadership and Management theme.

Staff work together to support and promote children's social interactions and behaviour, taking a positive approach to guiding behaviour. They set realistic boundaries, are good role models and use a consistent approach, taking into account children's age and understanding. Staff praise children when they behave appropriately, thereby reinforcing good behaviour. They also encourage and praise children for making a good effort. We saw children respond well to this approach. Staff make mealtimes sociable and take opportunities to model life skills, encouraging the children to try novel foods, and promoting table manners.

Staff provide a nurturing and caring environment in which they promote children's play and well-being appropriately. They have a relaxed, happy, and caring nature when interacting with the children. They speak in a calm and reassuring manner, and this helps to ensure the environment is relaxed and pleasant. Staff know children well, understand their preferences, and consider children's interests when providing resources and some occasional adult led activities. They record some observations of children's development, but activity planning is basic, not well-embedded into practice, and not strongly informed by the observations staff are making of children's development. Leaders expressed that they did not feel the current system was supporting staff to meet children's next steps. Leaders told us that staff work collaboratively with external agencies to support children with emerging needs, and this is continuing to be developed as the need arises.

Staff use the Welsh language intermittently through incidental phrases and instructions, as well as in signage and displays. However, the service is not delivered through the medium of Welsh as stated in the setting's Statement of Purpose as not all staff are confident in spoken Welsh.

Environment — Adequate

In the main, leaders ensure the play environment is safe and secure. They ask all visitors to sign in and out of the building. All staff are responsible for ensuring good hygiene throughout the day. They ensure play areas and equipment are adequately clean and maintained. Leaders ensure insurance certificates are up to date, as well as routine safety checks for the building and appliances. Basic written risk assessments are in place, and staff note daily the safety checks they make. The risk assessments are very general and are not updated in response to issues identified through the daily safety checks. For example, the daily checks note most days that a safety feature has to be reset by staff every day, with no evidence that an alternative safety measure has been considered to reduce this risk more effectively.

Leaders and staff maintain the environment appropriately and provide a welcoming, child friendly space, which is suitable for the age of the children cared for. Children have adequate space to play and learn. Children's toilets are easily accessible and clean. The indoor play space adequately supports children's play and development. Examples of children's work and photographs of them engaged in play are displayed throughout the setting. This supports children's sense of belonging and helps to create a welcoming, child-centred environment.

An outdoor space is available to the children directly off the playroom. The space provides suitable opportunities for children's physical play. Staff brought out a slide, balance steps, and ride on toys which the children enjoyed. The outdoor space has not been well developed, and leaders told us it was difficult to do so due to the security of the outside space. A mud kitchen had been installed which we saw children play with and enjoy, but staff had to bring out any other resources that were needed. Despite this, we saw children enjoy their time outdoors.

Leaders provide suitable child-sized tables and chairs for activities and meals. They store many resources at low levels allowing children to access them independently, supporting their free choice. Children have access to an adequate range of toys and equipment. Children enjoyed playing with dinosaurs at a dinosaurs' tea party, role play kitchen, imaginative play with planes, and construction. However, most resources are plastic, single purpose toys, and do not include many natural, real-life, or open-ended resources which would enrich and enhance children's play experiences and development opportunities.

Leadership & Management — Poor

The leadership and management of the service is poor, which impacts on the quality of the service provided. Considerable attention is needed from leaders to ensure that the requirements of the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 and the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare are met. Leaders have written a detailed statement of purpose to provide parents with essential information about how the setting runs. However, the setting is not acting in line with the statement of purpose as required by the regulations, because it is not up to date, nor an accurate reflection of the service provided. The hours of operation are inaccurate, details of staffing have become out of date, it does not outline that the service operates under contract to Flying Start, and it states the service is conducted through the medium of Welsh when this is not the case. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. We also found that changes had occurred within the service which had not been notified to CIW within 28 days as required by the regulations, for example, a new member of staff starting work. Leaders also failed to notify CIW of a change of the days of operation of the service. This is also an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders have not ensured that there is a suitable system in place for practising and recording fire drills. They rely upon whole building evacuations, determined by the building managers, rather than having their own system where they control the regularity and timing of evacuations for the needs of staff and children. They also do not document the evacuations undertaken to demonstrate which children took part or if the evacuations need to be improved upon. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. They have also not ensured that policies are fully fit for purpose and specific to the setting.

Leaders do not ensure they maintain accurate, complete registers as they do not include children's full names, staff names and times of attendance on their registers. Additionally, children's records were not available on site for use in an emergency, and records subsequently provided to us were not signed by parents. These matters impact on children's well-being and place them at risk. We have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

Leaders have a system to ensure that a formal self-evaluation of the service is undertaken on at least an annual basis. The quality of care report states that the service consults with parents, staff, children, and relevant external agencies in order to review the quality of the service.

Leaders employ staff who are suitably trained in childcare and they organise themselves well. They ensure staff are suitable for their roles by completing and documenting all necessary recruitment checks. Staff confirmed they enjoy working at the setting and feel supported. However, there is no

system in place to provide effective oversight of all staff. Staff and leaders do not receive formal one to one supervisions to reflect on their practice, as required by the regulations. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Leaders value the positive relationships developed with the community and parents. Staff told us that the relationships they build with parents are at the heart of the service they provide and are vital to making the positive impacts for children.

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.

The table(s) below show the area(s) for priority action and/or those for improvement we have identified.

Summary of Areas for Improvement	Date identified
Children are placed at risk because they do not know how to safely exit the building during a fire or emergency	17/06/26
Outcomes for children may be impacted because leaders have not ensured the statement of purpose gives clear information as to the nature of the service provided	17/06/26
Children may be placed at risk because the provider does not ensure staff receive regular supervision and appraisal, which limits opportunities to reflect on practice and improve the quality of care	17/06/26
Children may be at risk of harm because the provider does not notify Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) of all significant events, which limits effective accountability and regulatory oversight	17/06/26

Summary of areas for Priority Action	Date identified
Children are at risk of harm because the provider does not ensure that important records are fully/accurately maintained or readily available in the event of an emergency.	17/06/26

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 1 - Information	Review all policies and procedures to ensure they are specific to the setting and accurately reflect current practices, arrangements and responsibilities within the service.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Revise activity planning to ensure it supports staff to meet children's needs and promote their 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)
Risk assessments should be further developed to ensure they effectively support staff to keep children safe
Improve the resource provision to include more open ended, natural and real life play items to enrich children’s experiences

Mae’r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

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