

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
Child Minding and Day Care (Inspection and Information for Local
Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2010
The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010

Inspection Report

Mumsaway Nursery
Abercerdin Primary School
Kenry Street
Evanstown
CF39 8RS

Type of Inspection – Post Registration - Baseline
Date of inspection – Tuesday, 13 January 2015
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Summary

About the service

MumsAway was registered in June 2014 to care for a maximum of fourteen (14) children. The service operates a playgroup in the morning from 9am to 1pm, for pre-school children aged 2-3 years. There is also an after school club which accommodates school age children up to the age of 10 years and runs from 3:15pm to 5:15pm.

The service runs from a self contained unit within the grounds of Abercerdin Primary School in Evanstown near Gilfach Goch.

The registered person and person in charge of the service is Karen Lynne Elliott, who is also a registered child minder.

What type of inspection was carried out?

This was an unannounced post registration, baseline inspection which looked at the four quality themes for children using the service which are; Quality of life, Quality of Staffing, Quality of Leadership and Management and Quality of the Environment.

The methodology used to conduct this report was:

- One unannounced visit to the service.
- Discussion with the person in charge.
- Observation of practice.
- Scrutiny of two staff files.
- Scrutiny of two children's information and records.
- A sample of documents was examined as detailed in the body of this report.

What does the service do well?

Promotes healthy initiatives such as 'Design to Smile', 'Healthy Eating Initiative' and 'Busy Feet'

Plans activities linked to the Foundation Phase.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Not applicable – this is the service's first inspection.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of non-compliance noted at this inspection.

We notified the person in charge that:

staff files must contain a full work history without gaps

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks must be completed for the service prior to staff commencing childcare duties.

Good practice recommendations include:

Adding times in and out on the children's attendance sheets.

Make drinking water available for children to access when needed.

Regular one to one supervisions with staff must commence.

Produce a quality of care report once operating for twelve months and yearly thereafter.

Quality Of Life

Overall we, the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) found that children are cared for in a child friendly environment with access to a good range of learning opportunities to enhance their holistic development.

Children thrive emotionally, socially, physically and intellectually. We saw children engaged with a good range of activities. Children were told to 'use kind hands please' when there were minor squabbles between children. The children had made some soup in the morning, which was linked to 'The Old Woman Who Lived In a Shoe' and the theme 'Nursery Rhymes', and they had this, along with bread and butter, and a selection of fresh fruit later on at snack time.

Good hygiene practices were seen with children washing their hands before sitting at the low level table and chairs for 'snack time'. Children's laminated placemats were placed on the table and children were asked to identify their name, and when found, or assisted they were praised by staff. We suggested a further opportunity for promoting independence by having the child's photograph on the mat, and that, although water was available at any time, this should be made available for children to help themselves. A snack menu was available with cereal, fruit, crumpets, tomatoes and sandwiches. The nursery was signed up to the Welsh Government Healthy Eating Initiative and was attempting to achieve the gold standard. Children were also party to the Design to Smile initiative where children had their own toothbrush for cleaning their teeth after snack.

Children's independence is promoted; this is because staff encouraged children to do things for themselves. We saw children help themselves to the resources as all toys and items had been stored at low level. We observed staff encouraging children to do as much as they could independently and that they were careful to provide support where needed, but also respected the children's wishes to do things themselves.

We saw children engaged in a structured activity of painting their hands and making 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' pictures with some cotton wool. Children were encouraged, but not forced to participate, and were able to move around the room freely, whilst helping themselves to the toys and activities available, which allowed children to play independently or as part of a group.

A good range of experiences were offered to the children and we saw mid term planning was in place to ensure that children were fully occupied. We saw a vast array of pictures and examples of children's activities and art work which included Diwali Celebrations, and other special celebrations and occasions. Basic Welsh was used through songs and conversation, and an early years advisor was due to attend the nursery to support them with the Welsh language.

Children have a choice and are encouraged to express their views. Staff offered children as much choice as possible; we observed staff encouraging the children to make choices

about what they wanted to play with. We saw that the children's requests were met wherever possible. The room consisted of separated areas of play within one room. There was a home corner, wet play area, dressing up and story corners, and table top and floor activities. Children had access to a secure outside play area, with boxes for growing flowers and fruit. Throughout the inspection all children were seen to be engaged, enthusiastic and animated whilst playing with the variety of toys and completing activities available to them.

Children have a sense of achievement and are supported to develop and experience positive relationships and attachments. Children received praise at every opportunity; staff were heard saying, 'good girl/boy, and 'well done'. Relationships between the staff and children were seen to be relaxed; all children were seen to be happy and content. Children had the opportunity to take home 'Lilly Bear' and to write about their experiences and to record with photographs.

Quality Of Staffing

Overall, we found that children receive care from a caring staff team, who are professional and enthusiastic. Children receive care from a qualified and enthusiastic staff team. The staff team, on the day of the inspection consisted of the person in charge and two other staff, all staff were qualified to a Level 3 in Childcare or higher.

However we looked at two staff files and found that, although staff had commenced with a valid police check, known as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, they did not have a transferable DBS, and a new one had not been sought by the nursery on appointment. New DBS checks had recently been undertaken by the nursery, and therefore a discussion took place regarding the requirement for new staff to have a DBS prior to commencing work, unless fully supervised whilst this is pending.

We saw staff members had recent training in Food Allergies, Food Safety and First Aid. However we recommended that child protection refreshers are needed. A discussion also took place on the need to ensure a full work history, without gaps are available, or explored with explanations available on file.

The care and support provided to the children by staff was good and the children received positive encouragement, and good behaviour and achievements were praised. Children have a good relationship with the staff. We saw children experience good interactions with the staff; with staff being patient and caring, tending to the children and ensuring that they were comfortable and happy, thus enhancing the children's well-being.

The staff were good role models, listening to the children, chatting to them and giving them plenty of time to complete conversations, activities and their snacks which successfully created a positive learning and social environment where children felt safe and secure. Staff were seen showing an interest in the children's play and promoting their learning at every opportunity, for example staff talked about which colours sticker the children wanted, and that one was light blue, the other dark blue.

Staff were seen promoting good hygiene practices when preparing snacks and when handling the children's tooth brushes where different disposable gloves were used. Tables were wiped with Dettol before and after snack.

Quality Of Leadership and Management

Overall, we found that the setting's management and administrative systems are satisfactory.

Parents have the information they need to make an informed choice about using the service and what the service sets out to provide because a statement of purpose was available. Notice boards were visible displaying a number of documents for parents to see.

Staff can be fairly confident that they will be supported by management. As the nursery has now been operational for three months staff are required to have regular one to one supervision sessions, which the person in charge is in the process of arranging. A discussion took place on yearly appraisals for staff once operating for a year, and the need to produce an annual Quality of Care report, which includes the views of the children, their families and staff on the service. The person in charge agreed to conduct a review of the service and to provide the CSSIW with a copy of the report within 28 days of completion. This document will then be available to those on request.

Team meetings are held for staff on a Friday and are minuted. On discussion with the person in charge, if staff were unavailable due to sickness or appointments the person in charge had a back-up member of staff available, with their own staff file. Staff had an induction prior to commencing employment.

Overall, parents/carers can be confident that the setting is well managed. Staff and children's files were available for inspection. Children's files contained signed contracts, registration and agreement forms, permissions for sharing information, outings, photographs, first aid, medical treatment, and plasters and progress and development frameworks and Foundation Phase assessments. Paperless diaries had just been introduced, with daily updates in emails which had a security password.

Records viewed at the time of the inspection included:-

- Public Liability Insurance certificate – Expiry April 2015
- Children's registers – parents are to sign their children in and out of the setting.
- Risk assessments – for the premises and whilst on trips.
- Visitor's book – both at the school and in the setting.
- Three monthly fire drills for the whole school, we recommended individual drills for the setting.
- Portable Appliance Testing – expiry April 2015.
- A 5 star food hygiene rating.

Quality Of The Environment

Overall, we found that children benefit from a stimulating and safe environment that promoted their holistic development with a good range of age appropriate toys, furniture and equipment.

Children are cared for in a warm, comfortable and welcoming environment. The premises were well maintained, child friendly and comfortable with the play room being bright, airy and clean. Displays of the setting's themes were visible with some evidence of the children's own art work on display. The outdoor play area was enclosed and secure which provided the children with an opportunity to be active outdoors and have fresh air.

Children are able to explore, follow their own interests and do things for themselves. The play areas had been arranged to suit the needs of the children, with items stored at low level and within easy reach. Children had opportunities to freely move around the play areas and help themselves to the resources. Areas of play had been created within the playroom which allowed the children to play independently or in small groups. There was an area to undertake table top activities, messy play, quiet/reading corner and a floor play area available to the children.

Children's interests are promoted because they have access to a satisfactory range of toys, activities, facilities and equipment. We saw a range of age and developmentally appropriate toys and activities available to the children which supported their learning. A sufficient supply of low level tables, seating and resting resources for the children were available. The resources, furniture and equipment were viewed as being in good condition and clean.

Overall, the safety and welfare of the children is promoted, because there was a system in place for managing access to the premises and a record of visitors was maintained. Safety equipment was in place where necessary, fire extinguishes were checked, and were due to be re-checked in 2021. Radiator covers were in place.

How we inspect and report on services

We conduct two types of inspection; baseline and focussed. Both consider the experience of people using services.

- **Baseline inspections** assess whether the registration of a service is justified and whether the conditions of registration are appropriate. For most services, we carry out these inspections every three years. Exceptions are registered child minders, out of school care, sessional care, crèches and open access provision, which are every four years.

At these inspections we check whether the service has a clear, effective Statement of Purpose and whether the service delivers on the commitments set out in its Statement of Purpose. In assessing whether registration is justified inspectors check that the service can demonstrate a history of compliance with regulations.

- **Focused inspections** consider the experience of people using services and we will look at compliance with regulations when poor outcomes for people using services are identified. We carry out these inspections in between baseline inspections. Focussed inspections will always consider the quality of life of people using services and may look at other areas.

Baseline and focused inspections may be scheduled or carried out in response to concerns.

Inspectors use a variety of methods to gather information during inspections. These may include;

- Talking with people who use services and their representatives
- Talking to staff and the manager
- Looking at documentation
- Observation of staff interactions with people and of the environment
- Comments made within questionnaires returned from people who use services, staff and health and social care professionals

We inspect and report our findings under 'Quality Themes'. Those relevant to each type of service are referred to within our inspection reports.

Further information about what we do can be found in our leaflet 'Improving Care and Social Services in Wales'. You can download this from our website, [Improving Care and Social Services in Wales](#) or ask us to send you a copy by telephoning your local CSSIW regional office.

