

Transcript of 'Meet our inspector: Early years' video

Shan Jones: My name is Shan Jones, I started in the childcare field when my children were born. I first of all worked in Cylch Meithrin. I then started to get involved developing childcare groups within my area. During that time I attended and lectured childcare courses. Then I was targeted by the Local Authority to come into inspection, because they were very keen to have a Welsh speaking inspector on board.

What drew me to the role of inspector was having my own children and knowing how important it was that they had good quality childcare. So many parents, they haven't got a choice, they have to go to work. We have to make sure that their children are safe in the care of day nursery, playgroup, child minder and it's important that they have good quality care.

I believe that the work of the inspectors is so important because we're talking about children, very young children in my field, normally under the age of eight, where they are attending a setting that the parents don't know. It's very important that we make sure that those children are safe, protected and that they receive a very good quality care.

Being a bilingual inspector, I do inspect in both Welsh and English. The inspection itself can be in either language depending on the service, and I'm quite happy to write reports in both Welsh and English.

It's vital that services that provide the service in Welsh are inspected through the medium of Welsh, because the children and staff feel happier. They feel more relaxed and it's a true picture of what actually happens in the setting. If they tend to speak in English that's not what normally happens. So it's so important that we have inspectors throughout Wales that can provide a service through the medium of Welsh, because we are seeing more and more of Welsh medium settings, and with the commitment of the Welsh Government to increase the number of Welsh speakers it's vital that if they are providing a service in Welsh they should be inspected in Welsh.

I'm a full time inspector with CSSIW, but CSSIW are always looking for fee paid inspectors. Especially ones who can work through the medium of Welsh and who've got the experience with day care services.