

**Report following monitoring
Level of follow-up: Focused Improvement**

**St Padarn's Playgroup
Heol Llanbadarn
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1EZ**

Date of visit: January 2021

by

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)

and

**Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and
Training in Wales**

Report of visit – St Padarn's Playgroup
January 2021

Outcome of visit

The setting is judged to have made sufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection and CIW is satisfied that the actions taken to address the non-compliance have resulted in the setting being compliant with regulatory requirements.

As a result, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is removing the setting from the list of settings requiring focused improvement and CIW is bringing to an end its compliance process.

Progress since the last inspection

R1. Ensure that provision and resources meet the needs and interests of the full age range of children including the children attending the after school club

Since the core inspection, leaders have made positive changes to the environment and invested in resources that meet the needs of the full age range of children attending the setting. They have worked successfully throughout the extremely challenging circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic to make the necessary improvements. As a result, they have made good use of the space available to them to ensure that all children have access to rich learning experiences both indoors and outdoors. Leaders and practitioners plan learning areas to ensure that children can access a good range of suitable resources easily, including those that promote cultural diversity.

There is an improved focus on the child's voice in planning the provision and resources. Practitioners observe children and seek their ideas, which gives them a good understanding of children's preferences. They use this knowledge, as well as observations of children's progress, to inform planning effectively. They have worked with families to ensure that children's culture and individual preferences are valued.

R2. The Responsible Individual must address all issues of non-compliance identified during the course of the inspection

During the focused inspection carried out by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in January 2021, leaders evidenced that all areas of non-compliance identified during the core inspection in November 2019 had been addressed appropriately. Compliance is now achieved.

There are clear policies and procedures in place to safeguard children. The person in charge communicates these effectively with practitioners, who are now confident of their roles and responsibilities.

The person in charge and practitioners implement an effective system to ensure that they keep records of attendance in line with regulations.

Leaders have established an appropriate system for recruiting new staff. There is a system in place to ensure that all relevant suitability checks are completed before employing new practitioners

R3. Ensure that all policies comply fully with regulations and that they are applied consistently

During the focused inspection carried out by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in January 2021, leaders evidenced that policies now comply with regulations and national minimum standards. There is an appropriate system in place to ensure that policies are updated as necessary. Leaders ensure that practitioners fully understand the policies and can implement them effectively, through regular team meetings and reflection.

R4. Ensure that strategic planning focuses on key priorities and leads to timely improvements.

Since the core joint inspection, the Responsible Individual has appointed a new person in charge to lead and manage the setting. Since the appointment in January 2020, the person in charge has worked well with all practitioners to develop the provision and improve children's standards throughout the extremely challenging circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic. She has succeeded in sharing a clear vision for the setting with other stakeholders, which focuses well on providing good quality education and care for the children through purposeful and stimulating learning experiences. As a result, practitioners are now aware of their responsibilities and feel that their opinions are valued when discussing the setting's work.

Leaders and practitioners all contribute to strategic planning. They discuss and evaluate the setting's work regularly, including monitoring progress towards the recommendations from the core inspection. This helps them to identify what is working well and what could be improved. They have used online virtual platforms effectively to conduct meetings regularly throughout the pandemic, which has allowed them to share their ideas with others and to contribute to the setting's improvement plan. As a result, key priorities for development have been identified, including improving the outdoor areas to facilitate exciting and stimulating learning experiences for the children.

Leaders and practitioners have worked well with the local authority's early years advisory teacher to improve the provision and children's outcomes. For example, they have changed the learning environment and adapted their planning for continuous and enhanced provision to allow children to move more independently both indoors and outdoors. The person in charge also links professional learning opportunities well to the setting's improvement plan, in order to meet the needs of practitioners and those of the setting. For example, staff have undertaken playwork training and have improved their information and communication technology (ICT)

skills, which has enabled them to communicate with each other effectively during the pandemic period.

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