



Inspection Report

Meithrinfa Pontnewydd

**40 Station Road
Pontnewydd
Cwmbran
NP44 1NZ**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

25/07/2023

About Meithrinfa Pontnewydd

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Pontnewydd Child Care Ltd
Registered places	86
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 March 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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Summary

This was a focused inspection, and, on this occasion, we have not considered each theme in full.

Children are settled and happy at this setting. They enjoy a good range of activities. Children are developing their independence skills through suitable play and learning experiences.

Overall, staff keep children safe and implement suitable routines, policies and procedures. They form positive relationships with the children they care for.

The premises are secure and there are measures and procedures to keep children safe. Risk assessments are in place, and these inform the daily checklists which are used to identify unnecessary risks to children.

The leadership and management of the setting is improving and the people who run the setting engage with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The people who run the setting are committed to developing the setting to improve outcomes for children. The people who run the setting have addressed the non-compliance identified in the priority action notices issued at the last inspection. They are making progress towards addressing the areas of improvement and recommendations. These will be fully tested at the next inspection.

Well-being

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Children make some decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. On arrival, they go straight to play in one of the areas of learning on offer. They access the resources available to them and move them to their area of choice.

Children feel safe, happy, and valued at the service. They talk to staff spontaneously to seek reassurance or support. For example, one child approached staff for help when their shoe had come off. Many children separate easily from their parents, settle well into their groups, and have close relationships with familiar staff and children.

Children interact positively with their friends and with those caring for them. They form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They mostly play happily together or alongside each other. They are learning to co-operate and engage with each other in their play. For example, we saw a group of younger children washing cars and dolls, engaging appropriately with each other and the adult who was supporting them. Children are encouraged to be kind and considerate towards their peers. They are learning to take turns and share during activities.

Most children are happy in their play and learning. They generally access activities that interest them. The majority of children concentrate well, sustaining interest in activities they have chosen for extended periods, especially with adult support. For example, we saw one older child engaged in role-play in the play kitchen for a sustained period.

Children are developing their confidence and independence through the opportunities provided. They move independently between activities provided indoors and use the outdoor area at set supervised times.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Most staff understand their role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. Staff are aware of the safeguarding policy and their duty to report to the designated safeguarding officer. However, when asked about their individual responsibility to report, not all staff were able to answer confidently. This remains an area for improvement for the setting and will be reviewed at the next inspection. Staff follow the setting's policies for recording accidents, illness and significant events. Staff ensure that medication is stored safely. They maintain records of consent and administration of medication and ensure that these are signed by staff and parents. The priority action notice issued at the last inspection in respect of use and storage of medication is now closed.

Staff treat children with dignity and respect. They are sensitive to the needs of the children, providing care and affection. They give hugs when needed to provide comfort and reassurance. Staff members understand the behaviour management policy's aim to promote positive behaviour. Many staff members are skilful in managing children in group activities. However, during transition times children have periods of waiting for the next activity. At times this leads to unrest and lost play and learning time.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The people who run the setting have satisfactory measures in place to ensure the safety and welfare of children. They complete risk assessments for indoor and outside areas and review these regularly. These inform daily checklists that staff use to identify unnecessary risks to children and as far as possible, eliminate these risks. Staff ensure that cleaning materials are stored safely out of the reach of children and all bins have lids. The people who run the setting have removed other hazards identified at the last inspection in relation to the environment. Whilst not an exhaustive list, these include removal of hazards from sleep areas, replacing car seats and reviewing travel arrangements. The priority action notice issued at the last inspection in respect of the environmental risks, hazards, and safety measures is now closed. The people who run the setting are currently reviewing the environment to benefit transitions and the experience of the children that attend. This includes considering the layout downstairs, thoroughfares, dedicated staff areas and storage facilities. However, they have not reviewed the calculation of space needed per child.

The people who run the setting keep a record of visitors and staff working at the setting. Staff are also required to sign in and out of the building, individual rooms and at break times. However, these records are not always completed. As a result, a record of those who care for children at all times is not always available. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Improvements have been made in the leadership and management of the setting. The people who run the setting are committed to improvement and have addressed matters raised in the priority action notices issued at the last inspection. They keep records in relation to significant events. The system of recording medication, accident, incidents and pre-existing injuries accurately was an area for improvement for the setting. These records are now detailed and reviewed regularly, however, records in relation to children and staff attendance are not completed consistently. The people who run the setting have a complaints policy and procedure in place. During the inspection visit we saw records in relation to complaints received and investigations undertaken. However, the people who run the setting have not always notified complainants in writing, of the outcome of the investigation.

Since the last inspection in March 2023 the people who run the service have reviewed some policies and procedures. have been reviewed, these include policies in relation to medication, illness and exclusion. They people who run the setting have also reviewed the rest and sleep policy and procedures and records of sleep checks are now kept. However, the disciplinary and safeguarding policies do not contain all the relevant information. These remain areas for improvement and will be fully tested at the next inspection.

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
25	The Responsible Individual must take all reasonable steps to ensure the environment is free from avoidable risks. They must ensure risk assessments and daily safety checks are effective in identifying risks to children.	Achieved
26	The Responsible Individual must ensure that medication is stored safely, procedures are followed, and accurate written records are kept.	Achieved

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. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement		
Regulation	Summary	Status
31	The Responsible Individual must ensure all relevant notifications are submitted to Care Inspectorate Wales within the required timescales.	Reviewed
29	The Responsible Individual must ensure the setting's disciplinary policy provides that the failure on the part of an employee to report an incident of abuse, or suspected abuse of a relevant child to an appropriate person is a ground on which disciplinary proceedings may be instituted.	Reviewed
22	The Responsible Individual must ensure policies and procedures are fit for purpose and that all leaders and staff are confident in implementing them, to ensure children are safeguarded.	Reviewed
30	The Responsible Individual must ensure that accurate daily registers for children and staff are completed for each room. The Responsible Individual must ensure that all staff, throughout each day, know which staff and children are on the premises and in which room at any given time of operating.	Not Achieved

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 22 -	Review storage facilities and floor space for children and ensure

Environment	access to kitchen areas is restricted.
Standard 19 - Complaints	Ensure complainants are notified, in writing, of the outcome of the investigation.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure all staff implement the healthcare illness and exclusion policy.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure observations inform planning for the next steps in children's skills development.
Standard 14 - Organisation	Review the operational plan to ensure it is an accurate reflection of how the service currently operates and include plans for improvement.

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)
Improve transitions between activities.

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