



Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Porthmadog

**Ysgol Eifion Wyn
Porthmadog
LL49 9NU**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

18/04/2024

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About Cylch Meithrin Porthmadog

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Meithrin Porthmadog
Registered places	19
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	08 March 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	The service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service.

Summary

This was a focused inspection, and, on this occasion, we only considered wellbeing in detail.

Children are content and express enjoyment. They approach staff with ease to make their requests. Children have a sense of belonging, are beginning to form friendships and are familiar with the daily routines. Interactions between children and staff are positive. Children co-operate appropriately and are interested and engaged in their play and learning. They enjoy a reasonable selection of appropriate opportunities indoors and outdoors and can also relax and have quiet times. Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do some things for themselves appropriately and to problem solve, develop creatively, experiment and be imaginative.

Staff promote healthy lifestyles suitably. They have a warm and friendly caring approach. Staff organise interesting activities and encourage children to play outside to develop their physical skills in the fresh air.

The people running the setting ensure the environment is clean and safe. They organise attractive learning areas both indoors and outdoors. There are good quality toys and resources suitable for the age range of children cared for.

The people running the setting manage it suitably. However, improvements are required to meet regulations and standards.

Well-being

Children are confident communicators as their wishes, moods and needs are generally considered. They have appropriate opportunities, most of the time, to make choices and decisions about what affects them.

Children enjoy introducing themselves and showing what they like to play with. For instance, a child had the giggles, telling and showing their friends and staff how their grandparent had drawn a funny face on their balloon. Children approach staff with ease to make their requests. For example, a child informed staff they were ready to have their nappy changed and the staff member responded straight away. However, a child was disappointed when their request to paint a picture was delayed by staff, being told they would have to wait as there were not enough aprons.

Children settle quickly as they are greeted by friendly staff. They are familiar with the daily routines and show how they wash and dry their hands before mealtimes and get themselves ready for playing outdoors.

Children interact positively with their friends and those caring for them. They show good manners and enjoy the social occasion of snack time. Children cooperate well to tidy up their toys. They learn to share and take turns. For example, they shared the blankets and books in the cosy corner and took turns to climb up the steps on the slide. Children are learning about kindness. For instance, a child offered to help their friend to play on the seesaw.

Children are active and curious learners. They enjoy exploring the indoor and outdoor play areas making their own choices about what they want to play with. Children enjoy a variety of construction activities and expressed enjoyment and concentration building a long train track while others worked as team to organise an obstacle course with large wooden planks. Children enjoy developing their imagination in the home corner. For instance, a child created a lovely scene, they prepared the table nicely, organised the food props and placed their pretend meal in the microwave before serving to their friends. Children enjoy practicing their counting skills, for instance, before turning over their bucket filled with sand, they count and tap, before taking delight in revealing their sandcastle. Children have lots of fun developing their physical skills while playing in the fresh air. They run, jump, whizz around the play area on their bikes and climb the apparatus. Other children enjoy creating marks with a variety of chunky chinks or using the catching and throwing equipment to practice their co-ordination skills.

Children are developing their independent skills appropriately. For instance, a child sustained concentration as they transported water from one container into another. Children use the craft equipment confidently, they carefully cut out the shapes with scissors to make

a spider and take time to fold the paper accurately to make the insects long legs. Children are doing some things for themselves with suitable encouragement from staff.

Care and Development

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

Staff know the children well and have a warm and friendly approach to care giving. They praise children consistently for their efforts and celebrate their achievements.

Staff have a suitable understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children healthy. They promote healthy lifestyles appropriately, encouraging children to eat fruit, drink milk or water and develop their physical skills while playing in the fresh air. They encourage children to wash their hands which helps them develop their personal hygiene practice effectively.

Most staff have completed mandatory training in first aid and safeguarding suitable for the age ranges of children cared for. However, not all staff are fully confident in their understanding of safeguarding procedures and about implementing the safeguarding policy appropriately. They do not always provide vigilant supervision of children. For example, staff have their lunch break in the playroom while children play independently. Some unacceptable interactions from children were not being addressed by staff in a timely manner. This is placing children's health and well-being at risk, and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue. Staff implement most policies and procedures suitably. However, nappy changing procedures are not fully in line with current infection control guidance. For example, staff did not use a disposable apron while changing a child's nappy to avoid the risk of cross contamination. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Staff record accident and incidents but not all of these have been recorded accurately and not all have been acknowledged by parents / carers to evidence they have been kept informed. Staff record children's daily attendance but do not record their own daily hours of attendance, including their breaks, to have a clear audit of who is caring for children during those times. Staff record safeguarding concerns but do not record what action has been taken and if the matter has been resolved. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Staff organise suitable learning and play experiences for children and support them in a sensitive and positive manner. Staff organised a lovely craft activity, showing children how to use scissors safely to cut paper. They showed children how to make an insect and gave clear instructions. Staff responded in a timely manner when children invited them into their play. They enthusiastically engaged with children during story time and joined in with the lively discussions about visiting the beach.

Environment

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

The people running the setting provide a welcoming, secure, and clean environment where children can play and learn independently.

The people running the setting have completed risk assessments to appropriately identify the potential hazards to children and what measures are in place to manage these risks. Information is available to everyone about how they will deal with emergencies.

The people running the setting make sure the layout of the playroom promotes children's independence enabling them to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. There is a designated area for children to store their personal items and this creates a sense of belonging. The people running the setting display children's artwork attractively and this shows children their efforts are valued. Toys and resources are suitable for the ages cared for and children have access to appropriately sized furniture.

The people running the setting make sure the indoor storage of equipment and resources are suitable and accessible to children. They raise children's awareness of their Welsh heritage through a variety of wall displays. Since the last inspection the people running the setting have made improvements to introduce toys and resources to raise children's awareness about their wider society. Areas of learning are well organised to develop children's knowledge, natural curiosity, and interests. There are natural and re-cycled resources to develop children's sensory, language, numeracy, and self-awareness skills. Cosy areas are creatively presented, inviting children to have a rest and take interest in reading books.

The outdoor play area encourages children to be active in the fresh air. There is a good variety of climbing apparatus, pedal vehicles, throwing and catching equipment to develop children's physical skills appropriately.

Leadership and Management

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

The people running the setting have satisfactory measures in place to ensure everyone is generally aware of their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. They manage the setting suitably, but improvements are required to meet with regulations and standards.

The statement of purpose contains the required information and provides parents / carers with the information about what the setting offers. However, the contact details for Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) requires amending. Policies and procedures are in place, but not all of these have been regularly reviewed. The people running the setting notify CIW of any significant events. The responsible individual has not submitted the most recent assessment of service to CIW. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. The people running the setting have a good understanding of their responsibilities to actively promote the Welsh language and culture.

The people running the setting have completed a reflective report reviewing the quality of care which highlights what works well and what improvements are needed. They have drawn on the comments gathered by those using the setting but not included the comments from external agencies to fully evaluate.

The people running the setting make sure the disclosure and barring checks for staff and their mandatory training is up to date. Staff spoken with said they feel supported in their role and enjoy working at the setting. However, some comments made identified that staff do not always work effectively as a team. The people running the setting have gathered the required information in the staff employment files and children's individual records. The people running the setting conduct supervisions informally. They do not record these one-to-one discussions with staff to reflect on practice, training needs and any safeguarding concerns. Appraisals with staff are pending discussion.

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
20	The responsible individual must ensure all staff are confident about the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and are able to put the safeguarding policy into practice. The responsible individual must make sure staff record the actions taken when noting a safeguarding concern. The responsible individual must ensure staff vigilantly supervise children at all times.	New

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
30	The responsible individual must ensure staff record their daily hours of attendance, including their breaks, to ensure there is a clear audit of who is caring for children during the day. The responsible individual must ensure staff record accidents and incidents accurately and make sure parents / carers acknowledge these to evidence they have been kept informed. The responsible individual must ensure staff record the actions taken when recording safeguarding concerns	New
25	The responsible individual must ensure staff follow the correct nappy changing procedures in line with the Public Health Wales (PHW) Infection Prevention and Control Guidance (2019) for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) in Wales) (Nurseries, Childminding and Playgroups).	New
17	The responsible individual must ensure they complete the assessment of service within 28 days of receiving the request from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).	New

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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	To avoid children's disappointment make sure there are enough opportunities and resources for them to experience painting activities.
Standard 13 (Day Care) - Suitable	Formalise staff regular one-to-one supervision to capture discussions on the quality of their practice and raise any

Person	safeguarding concerns.
Standard 1 - Information	Make sure the contact details for Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) is accurate in the statement of purpose and ensure all policies and procedures are reviewed regularly.

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