



## Inspection Report

**Cylch Meithrin Cwm Derwen**

**Beech Grove  
Oakdale  
Blackwood  
NP12 0JL**

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This report is also available in Welsh**



**Date Inspection Completed**

19/10/2021

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## About Cylch Meithrin Cwm Derwen

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Meithrin Cwm Derwen
Registered places	16
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert 8 June 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This 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 is an inspection undertaken during the Covid19 pandemic. We have therefore focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

The service is child centred with a strong emphasis upon children directing their own play and learning. Children settle well, are happy and look forward to attending. They have opportunities to learn to become independent and develop their skills through a range of quality experiences and play. Children form close bonds with staff and with other children, making them feel safe and secure.

Staff are professional, appropriately qualified and take their responsibilities seriously. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. Staff have implemented new policies and procedures in response to Covid19 effectively. They plan for a wide variety of activities which are interesting and stimulating and capture children's imagination. Staff keep effective records of children's progress and development.

The environment is clean, welcoming and very well organised. Staff follow procedures to ensure the environment is safe and suitable, completing risk assessments and daily checks. A good variety of indoor and outdoor toys, resources and experiences promote children's all round development.

The leadership and management of the setting is strong. The people who run the setting are experienced and listen to children, parents and staff, involving them in making decisions. Staff feel well supported and enjoy their work. They receive good training and development opportunities to keep their skills and knowledge up to date. All the required policies, procedures and records are in place. Parents are very complimentary, and speak highly of the staff and the care their children receive.

The Welsh language is used throughout the sessions and children use it with confidence.

## Well-being

Children are able to make choices and decisions and are listened to. They choose their activities freely and know they will receive help or support if they ask. They are aware of the daily routines and know what to expect during the sessions. For example, they are ready for circle time and join in with singing favourite songs which are familiar to them. This provides certainty to their day and helps children settle easily. They are encouraged to voice their preferences and their opinions and receive support to participate and express themselves. Children feel confident and develop good self-esteem, showing satisfaction with the wide range of play and learning resources available to them. One child set up a table for teatime as soon as she arrived and invited people to join her.

Children are happy, safe and valued. Settling in sessions are guided by the needs of the child and their family and are extended if needed. Children are beginning to develop friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They have clear bonds of affection with staff who understand their needs and provide consistent care. They are confident they can approach staff for comfort and reassurance as needed. They sit closely with staff choosing stories and singing songs, joining in and enjoying the activities which are stimulating and exciting. They especially like the game of picking an animal out of a hat and making corresponding noises. Children are starting to share and are helpful, tidying up after games and activities. They are keen to show and talk about their activities and share information about their families and interests.

Children have regular exercise and fresh air and value the time they spend outdoors. They have very good opportunities for active and imaginative play. A good range of role-play activities such as making food and drinks in the home corner and dressing up are available at all times. Children receive encouragement to be curious and investigate the resources they use. Children were inquisitive about the large pumpkin which they intended to carve to make a lantern and grow the seeds. They talked about how the surface of the pumpkin felt and how heavy it was. Messy play activities with sand, paint and water provide children with opportunities to be creative and have fun.

Most children are developing independence skills appropriate to their age and ability. They wash their hands as needed and understand the routine of tidying when activities change. Children help to lay the table for snack and attempt to pour their own drinks and usually choose their food during snack time. They enjoy the sense of achievement from completing these tasks. Nearly all children understand the need to comply with the rules for socially acceptable behaviour and show kindness and respect to others.

## Care and Development

Staff are effective in keeping children safe and healthy. There are rigorous safeguarding procedures in place which promote the welfare of children. Staff understand their responsibility to be vigilant and are clear about the processes to follow to deal with any concerns. They receive safeguarding training and keep up to date with all relevant information. Regular fire drill practices ensure staff and children are aware of how to leave the building safely and these are planned and recorded appropriately. Staff record all accidents and incidents in detail and they are evaluated by the person in charge and are signed by parents. Staff also record all accidents which happen at home. All staff have attended paediatric first aid training and are confident to deal with minor injuries. Information relating to children's allergies is shared and accessible to staff. This is regularly updated with information from parents as needed and children are carefully monitored. There is a procedure for giving medication to children which includes parental permission for each dose. Staff provide healthy snacks during the day and drinking water is available at all times.

Staff interact in a kind and caring manner with the children. They are consistent in their approach and mindful of their age and stage of development when managing behaviour issues. Staff encourage children to express their views and preferences and praise all efforts and achievements. The daily routines enable children to spend their time engaged in interesting and stimulating activities, which are satisfying to them. Staff use soft tones to distract children who are frustrated or upset and provide comfort when distressed. Staff act as positive role models and manage all interactions appropriately.

Staff support children's learning and development effectively. Key workers use observations to track children's progress and plan activities to meet specific outcomes. Staff actively encourage children to join in conversations with them and to share any news or information during circle time, snack and when involved in activities. Photographs of activities and examples of children's work which are displayed demonstrate the skills achieved by children. Activities are adapted to be accessible to children with specific additional learning needs. Key workers arrange support from outside agencies to develop strategies to manage some behaviour issues and this is successful. Parents value this partnership. Staff ensure parents are informed about their child's progress, achievements and developments.

## **Environment**

People who run the setting ensure the environment is safe and secure. The setting is located within a classroom in the grounds of the primary school. The accommodation

consists of a main base room, foyer and children's and adult toilet facilities. There is an adjoining room which the service can use when available. Staff complete daily safety checks to identify and eliminate any risks to children's safety. Registers record the times children arrive and leave the premises. People who run the service monitor signing in and out of the service closely and ensure staff ratios are maintained at all times. There are rigorous risk assessments in place for all areas of the setting which include fire safety, Covid 19 and all children's activities. These are reviewed and updated at regular intervals by the person in charge. People who run the setting keep records of all visitors to the setting although during the Covid 19 pandemic non-essential visitors do not enter the building. The school authorities ensure regular and routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are carried out on a regular basis, providing records of all safety tests to the service as required.

The environment is clean and welcoming. Throughout the day, staff carry out regular cleaning of toys and equipment. Staff employed by the school authorities undertake a thorough clean of the premises each evening. The space is welcoming and provides light and bright areas for children to explore. There is a wide range of good quality equipment available for each group of children which is easily accessed, promoting independence. Resources are appropriate for the stage of development of the children and promote their curiosity and discovery. Children learn about aspects of different cultures and we saw a display of children's art work to celebrate Diwali.

The outside area is very well-designed and replicates the quality and quantity of resources which are available inside the setting. There are a number of separate areas which provide different opportunities and experiences for children in the open air. There are covered areas which provide shelter. This includes a large outdoor kitchen with a table and chairs. Children enjoy gardening and planting fruit and vegetables and sitting amongst the flowers they grow in the summer months. The outside area provides very good experiences and opportunities for children to enjoy active play with natural resources.

## Leadership and Management

People who run the setting are skilled and experienced and manage the service effectively in line with the regulations and National Minimum Standards. There is a clear statement of purpose, which provides an accurate picture of how the service runs. This is updated to reflect any changes as needed. The person in charge keeps in touch with the responsible individual and the management committee to exchange information as needed. The person in charge provides regular supervision sessions to the staff and also carries out observations of their practice. This works to improve the standard of care and the professional development of individual workers. The person in charge does not currently receive formal supervision with the responsible individual as required. The person in charge is supported by partners of other agencies and receives feedback and guidance if needed from these individuals.

People who run the setting work hard to provide a quality care provision to children and their families. The staff team are enthusiastic, motivated and enjoy their work. The individuals within the team complement each other and work together well. People who run the setting maintain an organised environment and all documents are easily accessed and in good order. All the policies and procedures are in place, updated regularly and contain the required information. Appropriate checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children are in place before they take up their post. There are enough qualified and experienced staff to make sure children are well cared for at all times.

A strong culture of continuous professional development exists within the setting. All staff have completed safeguarding, first aid and food safety training as well as a range of additional learning. This includes the new education curriculum in Wales and the new Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales. The annual quality of care review takes into account the views of parents and children and staff. People who run the service are keen to continually improve the quality of the service and there is an action plan outlining work planned.



## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1. For the responsible individual to provide formal, regular supervision to the person in charge.

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved**

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved**

None	
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**Areas where priority action is required**

None	
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**Areas where improvement is required**

None	
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**Date Published 16/12/2021**