



Inspection Report

Meithrinfa Blagur Cyf

**Hen Ysgol
Rhydyclafdy
Pwllheli
LL53 7YW**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

31/03/2022

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About Meithrinfa Blagur Cyf

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Meithrinfa Blagur Cyf
Registered places	37
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection since the service re-registered on 18 March 2019.
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	Yes. 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

Children are happy, settled and have formed positive relationships with staff and each other. They make choices about how they spend their time and interact well with their friends. Children enjoy the activities available to them and they are confident to ask staff for support if they need it.

Staff understand most of their responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. They provide responsive care and use positive methods to encourage children to interact well together. However, not all staff have completed safeguarding training, and some are unsure of current best practice regarding nappy changing. Staff plan appropriate activities to aid children's learning and development.

People who run the setting ensure the premises are secure and in a suitable condition. However, they do not have appropriate systems in place to monitor and manage risks or fire safety effectively. People who run the setting make the environment welcoming to children and provide a selection of suitable toys and equipment, including some opportunities to explore natural materials.

People who run the setting generally understand their responsibilities, but improvement is needed in relation to safe recruitment procedures and suitability checks. We have issued a priority action notice in relation to this matter. Some improvement is also needed regarding staff deployment to ensure the appropriate adult:child ratios are adhered to. People who run the setting have established suitable partnerships with parents, ensuring they are well informed about their children's learning and development.

Well-being

Children are happy, settled and make appropriate decisions about how they spend their time. They move around the available activities freely and follow their own interests. Children know they can ask staff for help when they need it and are confident to do so. For example, they know they can ask staff for help to choose a book to read together from the bookshelf.

Children have a sense of security as they are cared for by staff with whom they have formed warm relationships. They feel comfortable asking staff for reassurance or comfort when needed. For example, by indicating they want a cuddle when they are unsure about new people or situations. Children are also eager to share their achievements with staff, knowing they will be celebrated. For example, they are eager to show staff when they successfully create structures with the giant blocks and smile when they receive praise. Children are making friends and chat together during lunch time and during play, sharing lots of smiles and laughter as they do so.

Children listen well and are happy to help with tasks and follow instructions. For example, when washing their hands and using the toilet before lunch. Children play well together. They share toys, take turns and work together to complete tasks well. For example, when steering and pedalling the tandem bicycle and by taking turns to place pieces of the wooden track for the trains.

Children have opportunities to develop their independence skills by completing tasks for themselves. For example, they are happy to wipe their own faces and hands after lunch time and are learning to help staff put the toys away and tidy up at the end of activities.

Care and Development

Staff understand and follow some of the setting's procedures to ensure children are kept safe and healthy. All staff have completed paediatric first aid training and they record any accidents and incidents on a secure online application. These reports are sent straight to children's parents, who confirm when they have viewed the report. Staff know the procedure to follow if they had any concerns about a child. However, staff have not completed safeguarding training since 2017.

Staff promote healthy eating and hydration; they encourage parents to provide healthy snacks and lunches for their children and ensure children have access to their drink bottles throughout the day. They encourage children to wash their hands as and when they need to and ensure children have regular opportunities to spend time outdoors in the fresh air, ensuring they develop their physical skills. However, staff do not always follow best practice when changing children's nappies as disposable aprons are not always changed in line with the latest infection control guidance.

Staff have positive relationships with children; they speak with them in a kind and calm manner and provide comfort and reassurance when children need it. They deal with any disagreements or inappropriate behaviour positively. For example, by distracting children or giving gentle encouragement and prompts if children showed any unwanted behaviour. Staff used praise often throughout the day to encourage children to interact and behave positively.

Staff know the children well and are familiar with their likes and dislikes. They gather comprehensive information about children's individual care, personal and medical needs before they begin attending, helping them to plan effectively to meet individual needs. Staff take regular photographs of children taking part in activities and send these to parents using a secure online application. Parents can respond to any comments or ask questions as and when they wish.

Environment

People who run the setting generally understand their responsibilities to provide a safe environment for children. They have written risk assessments in place, which outline any potential hazards to children's safety. These include extra preventative measures put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic to help minimise the risk of spreading the virus. However, people who run the setting do not review these risk assessments regularly to monitor and manage any potential hazards effectively. Although fire drills are practiced and recorded, none had taken place since August 2021 and the records contain very little detail. Fire risk assessments are in place, but these are not reviewed regularly.

People who run the setting provide children with spacious and suitable areas to play and learn. They provide children with an appropriate selection of toys and resources, and these are stored so that children can access them independently. Staff display samples of the children's work on the notice boards, providing children with a sense of belonging and pride in their achievements. All areas are well maintained and welcoming for children. The outdoor play area offers plenty opportunities for children to develop their imagination and their physical skills, including a mud kitchen, climbing apparatus and a large wooden boat.

People who run the setting provide children with a suitable range of toys and resources which are age appropriate and in good condition. A variety of equipment is available to aid children's independence, including steps, toilet seats and potties for children who are potty training and a range of different dishes and cutlery to help children learn to feed themselves. Staff provide some opportunities for children to explore natural materials, for example by making collages from recycled materials. They also provide plenty of wooden toys, such as a play kitchen, dolls houses and jig saws that enable children to experience different materials.

Leadership and Management

People who run the setting generally understand their role and responsibilities, but improvement is needed in relation to the deployment of staff. They have produced a statement of purpose that contains all the required information, enabling parents to make an informed decision if the setting can meet theirs and their child's needs. Policies generally contain the required information, but these are not always reviewed regularly.

People who run the setting are keen to ensure they offer a service which meets parents' and children's needs. They completed their annual assessment of service as required by regulations and have produced an annual quality of care report. The report notes the positive feedback received from parents, their children and staff. The report also outlines the improvements that have been made to date and those that are planned.

People who run the setting need to ensure the person in charge is supernumerary to the staff: child ratios so they can oversee and manage the nursery effectively. This was not always the case during the inspection visit as the person in charge was included within the staffing ratios during staff break times, at lunch time and when staff were performing other tasks. Staffing ratios do not always meet National Minimum Standards as there were only 2 staff members caring for 8 children aged 1-2 years.

People who run the setting do not always follow safe recruitment practices. Information was not available to fully ascertain staff suitability and there was no information at all in place for a new staff member. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were not current for all staff members. The responsible individual also did not have an up-to-date DBS certificate. The responsible individual has been issued with priority action notices regarding these matters. Staff told us they can approach the responsible individual at any time to discuss any issues or their training needs. We saw written records showing that annual appraisals had taken place as well as regular staff meetings. However, no formal records were kept of regular one to one staff supervision meetings held between the annual appraisals.

People who run the setting share information with parents effectively. We saw evidence of information gathered from parents detailing children's specific needs, likes and dislikes. We also saw how information about children's time at the setting is shared daily with parents using a secure online application. Parents we spoke with were complimentary of the care their child receives and state they receive regular information about their child's time at the setting.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1- Staff should follow the latest infection control guidance regarding nappy changing.

R2- People who run the setting should ensure policies are reviewed regularly.

R3- People who run the setting to record all one to one staff supervision meetings in addition to the annual appraisals and staff meetings.

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
6	The responsible individual does not have an up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate.	New
28	The responsible individual has not followed safe recruitment practices by ensuring sufficient documentation has been collated to evidence the suitability of staff.	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
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27	Children were not always appropriately supervised by a sufficient number of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff.	New
38	The provider has not ensured regular fire drills are practiced and has not regularly reviewed fire risk assessments.	New
25	Leaders have not ensured there are appropriate measures in place to review and monitor risks effectively.	New

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