



## Inspection Report

**Woodland Imps Playgroup**

**Mynydd Isa Community Centre  
Mercia Drive  
Mold  
CH7 6UH**



**Date Inspection Completed**

05/12/2023

**Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2024.**

You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)  
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

## About Woodland Imps Playgroup

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Woodland Imps Playgroup
Registered places	17
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

## **Summary**

This was a focused inspection, and on this occasion, we did not consider the care and development, environment or leadership and management in full.

Children receive good opportunities to play and learn alongside staff and make some choices about how to spend their time. They are happy and enjoy attending the setting. They feel safe and secure in the care of staff. Children develop a range of skills as they play and have suitable opportunities to become independent.

Staff are suitably qualified and have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy and implement the setting's policies and procedures well. Staff are patient, kind and caring. They support children's learning and development effectively, offering a suitable range of activities led by adults, which support children's interests, and their developmental needs. Staff keep appropriate records of children's progress.

The environment is suitably safe and secure and provides ample space for children to play and learn. Access to the playroom from the communal kitchen has now been improved to ensure children are safe. However, children must be protected from the risks associated with having water storage butts on the premises, including those which are situated away from play areas.

We confirmed during this follow up inspection that all outstanding non-compliance and areas identified for improvement had been addressed. Some recommendations remain open, and it is advised the necessary action is taken to update children's information and to ensure the environment continues to be a safe place in which to play and learn.

## **Well-being**

Children make some decisions about how they spend their time. For example, they can move freely around their room, and do ask staff for activities they want including reading stories to them. However, children could not choose to play outdoors as the doors were closed and no one had suggested playing outdoors was an option. Children express themselves well, knowing staff will listen to their needs and wants. They are beginning to use emotion cards to show others how they feel.

Children are happy at the setting and feel welcomed and valued. They enjoy being in the company of other children and form warm and affectionate relationships with staff. Those who have settled in, know the staff and daily routines very well, which helps them feel at ease and more confident in their surroundings. Individual children receive plenty of attention from their keyworker and other staff due to the good staff to child ratios.

Children interact positively with their friends and staff, for example when playing together with toys in the sand and when painting at the easel. They are kind and respectful, taking care of their toys as they use them and sharing items with others. For example, when children respond to staff with “thank you” staff acknowledge them and say “you’re welcome” which pleases the children.

Children enjoy their play. They benefit from a good variety of opportunities and a suitable selection of resources, which they can play with as they wish. Children are interested and concentrate for suitable amounts of time when listening to stories, singing rhymes and songs, and when making their Christmas tree decoration. Children enjoy playing alongside staff and chatting with them. A few are curious learners and confidently follow their own interests, creating their own play, based on their ideas.

Children develop a range of skills as they play and have suitable opportunities to become independent. Children poured their own drinks at snack time and helped to tidy up at the end of a play session. They are very familiar with where items are to be placed. A few older children confidently choose their favourite activities, which support them to develop independent thinking skills and to make their own decisions.

## Care and Development

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

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. They are all suitable to work with children, there is evidence to show they receive regular safeguarding training and were seen to supervise children well. They now ensure a visitor's log is completed when needed and encourage only authorised persons to visit the setting. Improvements have been put in place to ensure no unauthorised persons are able to see into the playroom or talk to the children unsupervised. The door to the communal kitchen is now kept locked, as is the door to the main community hall. Both doors have Digi locks to restrict access to the playroom. Children are escorted to toilet facilities in the main community hall.

Staff are kind and caring which means children approach them with ease. Staff have good relationships and communicate very well with each other, the person in charge and the responsible individual. This ensures children and staff are appropriately supervised and supported throughout the day.

Staff are suitably qualified to support children's learning and development. With support from the person in charge, responsible individual and local authority advisory teachers' staff should be able to make the necessary improvements needed, with the implementation of the new curriculum in Wales (NCiW). They have begun to implement the NCiW, with planning now linked to the five pathways. Staff provide a suitable range of planned play experiences alongside free play and are beginning to tune into the children's interests and learning styles. Children with additional learning needs are supported appropriately as staff work well with outside agencies such as speech and language therapists. Children have some opportunities to play outdoors, older children walk to school and from school each day. Outdoor play continues to be an area for improvement and was identified at the previous inspection because of the impact it has on children's physical well-being. No children asked to play outdoors, and staff did not suggest outdoor play as an option for the children on the day of our visit or open the doors to promote free flow access to the outdoors.

## **Environment**

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

The environment is safe and secure and provided ample space for children to play and learn. People who run the setting have not sought advice from a Fire Safety Officer as advised regarding their Fire Risk Assessments, but they have removed the temporary barrier which was in place in front of the fire doors. We saw evidence to confirm fire drill practices do take place and are recorded appropriately. The premises are secure, with access to the playroom from the community hall and communal kitchen now restricted. There is a record of recent visitors to the setting. Water butts on site were covered but not with a child proof lid, the responsible individual stated the water butt is stored in an area where children do not have direct access to it, however, this area is accessed by families collecting their children from the setting and is still considered to be a risk. People running the setting are required to inform CIW when the risks associated with the water butt have been addressed.

People who run the setting ensure the premises are clean and adequately maintained, however the improvements scheduled for the premises by the Community Council have not been carried out. The toilet facilities require some decoration and refurbishment.

People who run the setting have secured grant monies to make improvements to the outdoor play area and to purchase additional authentic, natural, and sustainable resources. Some learning areas still lack resources, for example there is a lack of dolls clothing in the home corner, and the main resources for the role play kitchen were a variety plastic food items and utensils, where real authentic items would have been more beneficial. The responsible individual stated they are in the process of sorting resources currently in the storage cupboard. The setting has good quality furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs, low level toy storage units, drawer units, and individual named coat pegs on which to store their belongings.

## **Leadership and Management**

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

We confirmed people who run the setting have submitted notifications in relation to staff changes at the setting. They have addressed the recommendation made at the time of the last full inspection, which relates to the signing of contracts and registration forms. People who run the setting intend to display information in relation to policies and procedures for reporting concerns, complaints, and safeguarding concerns in a place where parents and visitors can see them.

People who run the setting have nominated additional persons in charge at the setting, online, shortly after the visit. This was to ensure any absences due to staff illness could be appropriately covered by staff who are competent to take on the manager's role.

CIW received no feedback from staff and parents via online feedback forms. A link was forwarded to the responsible individual for circulation.

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
20	Ensure all visitors to the playgroup during operating hours are suitable to be on the premises, and that the date, their personal details, reason for visit, arrival and departure times are recorded. Ensure children are appropriately supervised if relatives/ friends / members of the public who are using the community centre facilities, are engaging with children across safety gates. Ensure parents are made aware and give their permission for their child to engage in an activity where a visitor/s to the setting will be present.	Achieved
31	Ensure CIW are made aware using online notifications, of staff intending to leave the playgroup and those being employed. CIW must also be notified of any change in the committee/ board of trustees. An	Achieved

	updated statement of purpose must be forwarded with any notification of changes at the playgroup.	
38	Ensure a full fire risk assessment is completed annually and if needed the responsible individual should consult with their local Fire Officer on matters for which they need advice. Regular fire drills must be completed with children at suitable intervals so as they, and those caring for them, are made aware of the procedure to be followed in the case of fire or of any other emergency where they may need to evacuate the building;	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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
20	Ensure children regularly have opportunities to play outdoors. Where possible, children should be able to choose when they go outdoors to play.	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 24 - Safety	Ensure children cannot access water stored in water butts.

Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Children have sufficient opportunities to play and learn outdoors.
--	--

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)
Ensure more natural, sustainable and authentic resources are introduced into learning areas.
To prominently display posters and relevant policies and procedures in order to inform parents/carers and visiting professionals of those persons responsible for safeguarding, and responding to concerns and complaints at the playgroup. Details should include the names and contact details for the Local Authority Safeguarding Team, the regional CIW office, safeguarding lead at the playgroup, the responsible individual, person in charge and current committee/trustee members.

### **Was this report helpful?**

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- [Inspection report survey](#)

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our [Feedback surveys page](#).

**Date Published** 24/01/2024