



Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Amlwch

**Ysgol Gynradd Amlwch
Fford Pen Y Bonc
Amlwch
LL68 9DU**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

21/10/2021

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About Cylch Meithrin Amlwch

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Meithrin Amlwch
Registered places	16
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert This was a post-registration inspection.
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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 settled and they cope well with separation from their parents / carers. They have opportunities to follow their own interests. Children do not have a sense of security as they are unfamiliar with the daily routine. Some activities are organised suitably and work well but most lack purpose and do not contribute appropriately to a child's all round development. Staff have a suitable understanding of their roles to safeguard children. However, they do not implement their learned knowledge of promoting children's welfare, and keeping them safe and healthy well enough. The environment is welcoming and friendly and is suitable for the needs of children but the outdoor area is not being used successfully. The people running the setting are not managing Cylch Meithrin Amlwch appropriately. The language of the setting is both Welsh and English. The Welsh language 'Active offer' is being provided.

Well-being

Children are settled and there are opportunities for them to follow their own interests suitably. For example, a child excitedly shows us the exploration table full of soft toys representing woodland animals. The child smiles as they hold the toy hedgehog and squirrel. Other children complete jigsaws and name the farm yard animals as they hold them up. They are confident to speak to us and ask us if we can help them put on their coats ready for home time.

Children cope appropriately with separation from their parents as daily transitions are organised suitably. On occasions our observations show children looking unhappy. This is because they are not being responded to appropriately by those caring for them in a supportive and empathetic way.

Children are also unfamiliar with the daily routine, which makes some children feel insecure. For instance, when snack time was mentioned children went to sit at the table but were called back to sit on the carpet to have a story read to them instead. Children are unfamiliar with the routine to tidy up their toys and did not enjoy getting involved in this activity.

Children share the toy vehicles well and take turns when playing with the garage. A child responds positively and apologises to their friend after snatching from them. Few children are polite and are not familiar with the routine of saying 'thank you' when being served a drink. Some children are disengaged and show a lack of respect for property. For instance, a child placed a drum on the floor and began to stamp on it.

Children experience some opportunities to promote their all-round development while making choices. For example, a child enjoyed singing and performing 'incy wincy spider' and was happy when their friends applauded their efforts.

Other children enjoyed developing their imagination in the construction corner and showed us how they put on a builders hat and filled the wheelbarrow with tools. However, during a painting activity children were unaware of the purpose of this activity and when asked what they were doing they did not know. Children also lacked direction during a music activity, where the noise levels increased to such a high level it upset other children.

Independence skills are being developed but children are not always acknowledged for their achievements. For example, during snack time a child cleared away their rubbish and placed their cup and plate in the sink. The child was not praised for doing this and instead was told to sit back down. A child enjoyed playing independently in the home corner, they placed the baby doll in the pram and laid the kitchen table with a selection of related props as they pretended to make tea. Children concentrate for appropriate lengths of time as they play a matching colour game.

Care and Development

Staff understand their role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy but some areas of their practice is not showing they are implementing their learned knowledge well enough. They have an appropriate understanding of safeguarding procedures. Policies and procedures are in place but some are not always applied correctly.

Fire drills are being conducted but not at suitable intervals in order for the persons working at the setting and children to be familiar with the routine of what to do in the case of an emergency. The fire drills are recorded but no outcome logged to identify what could be improved on next time. Staff record children's and their own attendance appropriately.

First aid and safeguarding training is current and suitable for the ages of children cared for. Staff do not complete accident and incident records for all occurrences and not all parents sign the one's completed to evidence they have been kept informed. Most of the steps to change a child's nappy is in line with infection control procedures but not in line with the policy for the setting. Staff cleanse their own and children's hands with hand sanitiser to help develop personal hygiene practice, however, we discussed that soap and water is more effective to rinse off viruses, grease and dirt. At snack time staff served children their fruit snack boxes from home and offered them a drink of milk as a healthy option.

Staff are not following the positive behaviour management policy appropriately. For instance, not all staff interactions with children are positive as they are not responding to children on an age appropriate level. As a result this impacts on children's moods, wants and needs and they become agitated and disengaged.

Staff track children's development and progress appropriately. The person in charge told us they are implementing 'In the moment planning' to make sure children are directing their own learning through play. Our observations show this is not working effectively. There is a lack of structure to the sessions and this does not help and support children to familiarise themselves with routine and the purpose of the activities is not explained to them. Some activities are organised suitably and work well. For instance, a book was discussed nicely with a child and a lovely conversation was had about the dog in the story. Staff supported children, when building with bricks, to practice their counting skills in Welsh.

Environment

People running the setting provide a secure and clean environment where children can play and learn. Risk assessments have been completed, appropriately identifying the potential hazards to children and what measures are in place to manage these risks. However, staff are not providing vigilant supervision at all times for children, for example, a child was using a toy inappropriately and we had to intervene as this could have led to a serious injury.

The layout of the play room promotes children's independence and there is potential for free flow access to the outdoors but this is not being organised successfully as we saw no outdoor play during our visit. Toys and resources are suitable for the ages cared for and children have access to appropriate sized furniture.

The environment is welcoming and children's art work is attractively displayed. Indoor storage facilities are appropriate and accessible to children. People running the setting raise children's awareness of the world around them by providing a range of different dolls which show different cultures.

Areas of learning are organised suitably and there are natural resources to develop children's sensory and self-awareness skills. However, there is a lack of recycled household goods and materials in order for children to develop their imaginary play and creativity.

The outdoor play area was not seen being used during our visit but it has some lovely features to ignite children's imagination, for example, the suspended watering can and glass beads which sparkle like droplets of water. There is sufficient space for children to learn about growing and planting. However, the water trays had not been cleaned and emptied of rain water. Some of the walled objects are weathered. Relevant information for parents is also displayed clearly on entrance to the setting.

Leadership and Management

People running the setting have written a statement of purpose, which provides parents with some of the required information about what the setting offers. Policies and procedures are in place. However, not all of these have been recently reviewed, for example, the safeguarding policy requires updating. People running the setting have an understanding of their responsibility to promote the Welsh language and the 'Active Offer' is provided.

The report reviewing the quality of care is written suitably and highlights improvements made and the responsible individual's vision for the settings future. However, what is written and reflected on in the report does not represent the current practice seen during our visit. For example, the report states that all policies and procedures are reviewed before the term starts, staff will establish a routine quickly with children, staff will address behaviour at an age appropriate level and the use of the outside space has been prioritised since COVID-19. During our visit this practice was not apparent and the person in charge told us they do not use the outdoor area often.

Not all the people running the setting have a current disclosure and barring service (DBS) check in order to meet requirements. Relevant training is up to date. The responsible individual has not made sure all of the required information on children has been gathered to ensure there is proper provision for all of their individual needs to be met appropriately. Not all the required information has been gathered in staff files to ascertain a person's suitability for their role of caring for children.

People running the setting confirm staff receive regular supervision and appraisals. There is a suitable system of staff supervision and their performance is being recorded. However, the outcome, targets and actions from these discussions are unclear.

People running the setting have built positive partnerships with parents. We spoke with a parent who said they were happy with the setting and their child has progressed well since attending.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1: Children have regular free flow access / opportunities to the outdoors to play in the fresh air and learn about the natural world.

R2: Fire drills to be conducted at suitable intervals to make sure those working at the setting and relevant children know what to do in the event of an emergency. The outcome of these drills to be recorded in order to aid improvement in practice.

R3: Develop learning areas through using re-cycled household goods and loose parts to support children to develop their creativity and design skills.

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

Areas where priority action is required

Regulation 20 (1) Safeguarding and promotion of welfare.

We found poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's wellbeing. Therefore, we have issued a priority action notice and expect the provider to take immediate steps to address this and make improvements.

Areas where improvement is required

Regulation 30: Keeping Records: The registered person is not compliant with regulation 30, keeping records. This is because not all accident and incidents are being recorded appropriately, not all parents are being informed of accidents and not all the required information is being gathered in the children's individual records. The evidence: following an accident a record of the event had not been recorded, not all parents had signed the accident forms to evidence they had been informed. Information relating to children's individual needs had not been recorded and there was no record of the times / days which some children were attending the setting. The impact on people using the service is the responsible individual has not ensured all information relating to children has been gathered to make sure their individual needs are being met appropriately by those caring for them.

Regulation 25: Hazards and Safety: The registered person is not compliant with regulation 25, hazards and safety. This is because infection control procedures was not being implemented effectively in relation to hand washing, nappy changing procedures and making sure there was appropriate equipment for conducting first aid. The evidence: Staff did not follow the policy of the setting for hand washing which stated for staff to ensure hands are washed before and after snack time for both children and staff. We saw staff using hand sanitiser to cleanse children's and their own hands instead of using soap and water to eliminate germs, dirt and viruses. Staff did not follow the policy for the setting for nappy changing, they

did not clean the changing mat before use or use a disposable cover before placing the child on the changing mat. The sample contents of the first aid box was out of date, for example, the latex gloves had expired in September 2013 and plasters looked aged with no date. The impact on people using the service is the responsible individual has not ensured staff are following the correct infection control and safety procedures in line with the settings policies to ensure children are kept safe and free from the risk of cross contamination.

Regulation 28: Suitability of Workers: The registered person is not compliant with regulation 28 suitability of workers. This is because not all of the required information has been gathered in the staff files to ascertain the persons suitability. The evidence: a second reference had not been obtained, the photograph of the person was not appropriate in order to gain verification, there was no record of the persons induction or record of any supervision which had taken place. The impact on people using the service is the responsible individual has not ensured all of the required information has been gathered to ascertain the persons suitability to care for children.

Regulation 6 Registered Person Suitability. The registered person is not compliant with regulation 6 registered person suitability. This is because the responsible individual did not have a current enhanced criminal record check and certificate. The evidence: the responsible individual's enhanced criminal record check and certificate had expired on 07 September 2021. The impact on people using the service is the responsible individual has not satisfied requirements by providing to the Welsh Ministers a current enhanced criminal record certificate to ascertain their suitability to manage a day care setting.

Regulation 15: Statement of Purpose: The registered person is not compliant with regulation 15 the statement of purpose. This is because they had not included all of the required information to give an accurate reflection of the setting. The evidence: the responsible individual has not ensured the statement of purpose contains the following required information: statement on ages, numbers and sex of children; statement on range of needs of relevant children to be met; statement on terms and conditions; details of arrangements to review the statement of purpose and to inform CIW of changes to the service within 28 days, routines; arrangements for dealing with an emergency and details of pets or other animals on the premises. The impact on people using the service is the responsible individual has not included all of the required information in the statement of purpose to make sure parents have all the information they need to make an informed choice about the child care setting

they require.	
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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