



Inspection Report

Mini Miners Hall

**Gospel Hall
Davies Street
Ystrad Mynach
CF82 8AD**



Date Inspection Completed

13/09/2023

About Mini Miners Hall

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Mini Miners Group LTD
Registered places	30
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First inspection following inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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.

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<u>Well-being</u>	Adequate
<u>Care and Development</u>	Poor
<u>Environment</u>	Adequate
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children make choices and are suitably engaged in their play. Many children are content and express enjoyment. They have a sense of belonging, form friendships and are familiar with routines. Children have appropriate opportunities to develop their independence skills.

Policies, procedures and risk assessments are in place, but they are not always followed by staff and practice is inconsistent. Regulatory requirements in relation to safeguarding require immediate attention. As a result we have issued a priority action notice. Staff promote children's play and development and most engage well with children.

The people who run the setting ensure the environment is suitably organised and well-equipped inside. They also maintain a range of resources which promote independence and imaginative play. The people who run the setting are currently reviewing the layout of the indoors in order to make improvements.

The people who run the setting manage the setting adequately. There are suitable policies and procedures in place. However, not all records are maintained appropriately and this is an area for improvement. The people who run the setting ensure the suitability of staff and invest in their development. However, staff supervisions and appraisals require improvement. They review their quality of care and plan for improvement.

Well-being

Adequate

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They know the staff well and approach them for guidance and comfort. Children are familiar with daily routines. For example, they arrive happy, and go straight to wash their hands ready to have lunch. Most children join in with a song before food, which helps them settle before the meal.

Children make suitable choices about how they spend their time at the setting and play is mostly child led. We saw children move freely between the activities in the main room. Children are allowed to follow their own interests such as creating junk models. They can choose their activities freely and know they will receive help or support if they ask for it. For example, one child asked for support to dress a doll they were playing with.

Children interact positively with their friends and with those caring for them. They are able to wait their turn when staff serve them with food and drinks, and, with reminders, they thank the staff. They enjoy sociable mealtimes, chatting happily with their friends and staff about their morning in school. Children form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. Many play happily together or alongside each other. For example, we saw a group of children engaged in role-play for a sustained period. They organised themselves into the characters and used the real-life resources to role-play in the home corner.

Children enjoy the activities on offer. They are free to explore the indoor environment and spend time on activities that interest them. They concentrate for appropriate periods of time during craft activities, imaginative play and games. Children are keen to show adults what they are learning. For example, some children wanted to show us the pictures they drew. Children have sufficient opportunity to use the outdoor area at set supervised times. For example, we saw children engaging in group playground games which were adult led.

Children have suitable opportunities to develop their independence skills and receive support if needed. For example, we saw children have opportunities to serve their own food, peel fruit and pour their own drinks. Many children access the toilet independently and are learning to practise good hand hygiene with reminders from staff.

Care and Development

Poor

Staff have completed child protection training and are aware of the setting's safeguarding policy and the procedures to follow if they have concerns about a child. Risk assessments

are in place however, staff do not use them as working documents. For example, staff do not always supervise children appropriately. Risk assessments are not always followed and a safety gate and back door were left open. As a result, an incident occurred where not all children were safeguarded therefore, we have issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue. Staff use disposable tissues to wipe children's noses and they wash their hands afterwards. However, not all staff are consistent with food hygiene procedures and the Public Health Wales (PHW) infection control audit has not been completed. Most staff have completed appropriate first aid training and they ensure that the first aid kit is well stocked.

Most staff understand the behaviour management policy and consistently implement positive behaviour management strategies. They provide care and affection and when appropriate give hugs when a child is upset. Many staff are responsive; they listen and respect children's views. Most interactions are positive, demonstrating warmth and kindness. Most staff recognise when children need support and seek the children's opinion on how they would like to be supported which has a positive impact on children.

Staff provide a good range of play and learning activities. Staff ensure children are at the centre of their own experiences. They support children's choices, allowing them to have opportunities to explore indoors, following their own interests. This is beginning to promote curiosity and risk taking amongst children through the use of play based learning. Staff are aware of children's individual development and recognise when children may have additional needs. They take appropriate action in a timely manner and make good use of the support services. Staff also keep records, which identify strategies to support individual needs. The people who run the setting state they are working towards the Welsh language active offer. However, although some staff use incidental Welsh to support children's development this is not consistent and there is a lack of resources to support the children's individual needs and to promote the Welsh culture.

Environment

Adequate

The people who run the setting do not always ensure staff follow safe procedures in relation to security and access. During the course of the inspection, they have identified areas for

improvement. They are currently reviewing the risk assessments to ensure staff follow them efficiently and effectively complete daily checklists. The people who run the setting keep a record of visitors at the main entrance. They seek advice from fire professionals to complete the fire risk assessment and procedures for evacuation are currently being reviewed. The people who run the setting ensure that fire drills are conducted regularly and recorded appropriately. They ensure that regular safety checks are conducted and reviewed in a timely manner.

The people who run the setting ensure the indoor area is well maintained and ventilated. They ensure the indoor play space is well organised and allows children to move freely. The people who run the setting continue to identify improvements to the layout such as a quiet area for children to rest. However, they have not addressed the recommendation made at registration to provide a space for confidential conversations. They provide opportunities for children to develop their independence. For example, we saw children take responsibility for their belongings by hanging them on the low level pegs provided. Children's work is displayed which supports the children's sense of belonging.

The people who run the setting ensure resources and equipment are of good quality, clean and well maintained. The height-adjustable tables and chairs are of a suitable size for the age of the children. The people who run the setting ensure the resources are kept at a low level so that children can access resources easily, promoting their independence. The people who run the setting provide stimulating resources for all ages and stages of development. This promotes children's skills through sensory play, imaginative and creative play, small world activities and physical play. For example, children develop their skills through role-play in the home corner using 'real objects' such as blankets, clothes and suitcases. These imaginative resources as well as robust wooden furniture facilitate the play opportunities. Children's personal and social development is also encouraged through access to multicultural toys and books.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The people who run the setting engage with CIW and notify of significant events. During the inspection, they have updated their Statement of Purpose which now accurately reflects the service provided. The people who run the service do not always keep full and accurate records. This is because many records are missing signatures and pertinent information. Although not an exhaustive list these include children's medication, accident and incidents records, registration forms as well as records of those who care for children. This an area

for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. The people who run the setting have policies and procedures in place. However, the admissions procedures are not always followed. On one occasion, a settling in session resulted in more children present than the registered maximum capacity and procedures relating to paperwork and effective supervision procedures were not followed.

The people who run the setting implement a process of self-evaluation and improvement. They produce a satisfactory quality of care report, which identifies areas of strengths as well as areas to develop. The people who run the setting are committed to development and they have welcomed their first full inspection as part of their self-evaluation and planning for improvement. They are prepared to work with external agencies and accept feedback.

The people who run the setting manage staff suitably. They carry out appropriate checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. The people who run the setting make sure staff complete mandatory qualifications and invest in staff development. Staff we spoke to are positive about their work and value opportunities to develop their skills in order to benefit the children in their care. The people who run the setting hold regular supervisions and appraisals. However, procedures for managing staff performance are not followed fully and meaningful targets for individual development are not always set.

The people who run the setting are developing partnerships with parents. They keep parents informed of events and daily routines at the setting. The people who run the setting are working on ways to improve communication with parents about individual's progress. Staff share information via a private application and at handover. Many parents are complimentary about the care provided for their children.

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	Staff must follow policies and procedures and closely supervise children at all times in order to safeguard children.	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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30	The Responsible Individual must ensure that accurate records are completed for children and registration forms are always in place prior to children starting. The Responsible Individual must ensure that there is an accurate record of which staff are caring for which children at any given time of operating.	New
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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 22 - Environment	Ensure there is an area within the setting for confidential conversations.
Standard 1 - Information	Ensure leaders review their admissions policy and adhere to it.
Standard 4 - Meeting individual needs	Ensure staff consistently use and promote incidental Welsh language and resources.
Standard 13 (Day Care) - Suitable Person	Ensure procedures for managing staff performance are followed and meaningful targets are set for individual development.

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)
Complete the Public Health Wales infection control audit.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children's well-being.
Good	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
Adequate	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
Poor	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children's well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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