



Inspection Report

Meithrinfa Seren Fach

**Hen Gapel M.C.
Brithdir
Dolgellau
LL40 2RW**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

29/07/2021

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About Meithrinfa Seren Fach

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Meithrinfa Meirion Cyf.
Registered places	34
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	14 March 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	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

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are happy; they play confidently together and with those caring for them. They express themselves well in accordance with their ages and stages of development. Staff provide a good range of varied activities, which ensure children are interested in their play and learning and they enjoy themselves. Staff are kind, caring, know the children well and are considerate of their needs and preferences.

The premises are clean, secure and provide interesting and varied spaces and facilities for children to develop and learn. People running the nursery have responded to guidance published regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and taken appropriate action to minimise potential risk to children. They understand their role in managing the nursery. They have a clear vision and successfully addressed matters arising from their last inspection report. People running the nursery make sure they support staff and there are positive and successful partnerships with parents, the school and the wider community.

Well-being

Children have opportunities to make their own choices. For example, they choose what they want to do and with whom they want to play. All attempts at communication are valued and when a younger child gestures they want help to eat, staff respond straight away and the child is content. Children help themselves to a drink of water when they are thirsty and decide when they want to use the toilet.

Children throughout the nursery are settled and are perfectly happy playing alongside staff and their friends. Older children spoke confidently to us, wanting to know who we were and what we were doing. They told us they like coming to the nursery, playing outside and going on their Taid's (grandfather's) tractor. Children feel reassured when staff comfort them. For example, when a younger child gestures they are tired, staff gently pick the child up and get them ready for their nap. Parents commenting in our (Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)) questionnaires confirmed how their children felt safe at the nursery, had a great relationship with staff and trusted them completely.

Children have positive interactions with each other and staff. They share items of play without fuss and understand to wait their turn during registration to say they are 'here'. Children sit nicely together at lunchtime and different ages play naturally together outdoors. There are plenty of helpers when staff ask they clear up before eating and children busily put items away before going to wash their hands. Children are learning good manners and with some prompting at times, say please and thank you when it is required.

Children are enthusiastic, interested in their play and learning and enjoy a good range of activities. They move freely between activities, with some choosing to read books, play with different coloured trucks or fit wooden shapes together in the baby room. A young child smiles and giggles whilst singing a song about building as they stack up blocks. Children all shout hurray as they run into the playground outdoors and excitedly decide they are going to play hide and seek; one of the children telling us we have to hide as another counts to 10. They all disappear to their favourite hiding places before they are found and start the game again. Children smile proudly when praised for finding the correct numbered skittle and identifying the colour. They all thoroughly enjoy the freedom of playing outdoors and busily engage in the activities they like.

Children are becoming independent as those who are old enough use the toilet facilities on their own, wash and dry their hands properly before eating. They find their own-labelled bottles of water and put on their coats and shoes before going outside to play. Children have a wonderful opportunity to use their sense of hearing when a herd of cattle pass by the nursery whilst they are eating their lunch. They all stop and listen to the cows lowing and smile as the sound gets quieter and quieter as the cattle move away. Children have plenty of opportunities to develop their physical skills outdoors and heard making up stories as they sit together at the top of the climbing frame, using their imagination.

Care and Development

Staff understand their role in keeping children safe. They follow an appropriate Covid-19 policy and know what to do if they have concerns about a child. Staff have current first aid certificates so they could administer basic first aid if needed. They complete daily attendance registers along with records for accidents, incidents and the administration of medication. They confirmed conversations with parents when a child sustains a head injury are recorded in the room's daily diary and children's individual files. Staff promote healthy lifestyles and follow Welsh Government guidance in managing potential cross infection. For example, they clean tables before eating and follow current nappy changing procedures. The cook makes sure children eat healthy home cooked meals; parents commented in CIW's questionnaires how their children enjoyed the food provided. Staff make sure children have plenty of opportunities to spend time in the fresh air within the daily schedule of activities. They practice fire drills so children know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Staff engage positively with the children and praise them for doing something well. For example, they make a point of telling the children how well they are counting in their second language of Welsh. Staff promote good manners and model positive interactions throughout the inspection. For example, they sit alongside children as they play and talk to them in a caring, gentle voice. Staff give clear explanations so children understand. For example, staff remind children what they need to do before they are able to go outside to play. This works well and positive interactions happen as a result.

Staff know the children well and meet their needs. For example, staff make sure children's sleep blankets are ready for their nap and support children who need help to eat. They plan for children's play and learning experiences making sure varied activities maintain children's interest. Staff make learning fun for the children and bring out a roll of wallpaper for children to draw and colour on outdoors. Another throws and catches a ball with the children and they all laugh when the wind carries it away after it has been thrown. Staff take opportunity to teach children about shapes and colours at their level through play. For example, they name the colours of the different cars children choose to play with and the different wooden shapes in the puzzle game. Parents responding in CIW's questionnaires provided extremely positive comments about the 'app' used by staff to keep them up to date about their child's day at the nursery. Information shared included activities, food and they could even communicate with staff via the app. Staff engage well with the children all of the time during our visit, talking to them and making sure they have what they need and are happy.

Environment

People running the nursery ensure the premises are safe and secure by implementing daily safety checks. The locked front door and enclosed outdoor play area restricts entry to the premises and visitors are required to sign in and out. We completed a doorstep risk assessment in relation to COVID-19 and staff had systems in place to ensure the safety of children and themselves. The premises are clean, tidy and well maintained which minimises the risk of cross infection. People running the nursery make sure written risk records ensure risk management is current.

People running the nursery ensure children have space to move around in a secure, welcoming and organised environment promoting their play, learning and curiosity. They make sure children feel a sense of belonging as their craft -work is displayed and they have their own low level pegs to hang their personal items. The layout and design of the environment promotes children's independence and the facilities meet their needs. For example, people who run the nursery provide children with nappy changing facilities, child-sized toilets and hand washing areas they can use on their own. People who run the nursery ensure all areas promote children's play and learning. For example, each age group has their own brightly decorated and well set out playroom. Outdoors there is a wide range of resources to encourage children to explore and learn through play.

People running the nursery ensure children have a range of good quality toys and equipment suiting their ages and stages of development. For example, babies feel, touch and see different lights and materials in their peaceful sensory area. They make provision for the use of sustainable and recyclable items. For example, plenty of recycled pots and pans in the mud kitchen and herbs grown in old wellington boots. Indoors, people who run the service have designated areas and equipment to enable children to eat, sleep and rest comfortably.

Leadership and Management

People running the nursery work with due care and attention in order to meet minimum standards and regulations. The statement of purpose (information leaflet) provides parents with the information they need to decide whether the service suits their child's needs. Welsh language policies and procedures show people running the nursery provide the Welsh Government's 'Active Offer'. People running the nursery monitor outcomes for children and ensure children's learning and development progresses well throughout the year.

People running the nursery monitor the service throughout the year and complete an annual quality of care report. Annual feedback from parents was positive, noting they were extremely satisfied with the way the nursery is managed. People running the nursery are committed in making changes to improve outcomes for children. For example, they purchased new, interesting resources and successfully addressed matters arising from their last inspection report.

People running the nursery make sure staff are supported in their roles, receive regular supervision and annual appraisal. They encourage staff to attend training and courses relevant to their roles and maintain staff files in line with regulations. People running the nursery have an established key worker system to ensure children receive consistency of care. Staff told us they felt supported by the person in charge and enjoyed caring for the children. We saw staff working well as a team throughout our inspection.

People running the nursery promote positive and successful partnerships with parents, the school and the wider community. As part of the inspection process, we wrote to parents to ask for their opinion of the nursery. Parents shared glowing remarks about the service they and their children received in our questionnaires. For example, parents commented '*We have huge respect for the way in which the staff have adapted to the pandemic and managed to keep open in the most trying of times*, and '*xxx have thrived at Seren Fach and the opportunities they get are second to none*'. Through nominations by parents to Mudiad Meithrin, Meithrinfa Seren Fach won the best nursery in Wales in 2020, showing parents' appreciation of the service their child receives. Children benefit from the good relationships people running the nursery have with the local community. For example, money raised in memory of a local resident enabled the nursery to purchase a large wooden chair and wooden logs for sitting on, to listen to stories outdoors. People running the nursery told us how local people appreciated the children making up and delivering shoe boxes of gifts for the elderly residents at Christmas last year and how grateful the residents were. This is a lovely, innovative and thoughtful way of children learning about the world around them and showing care towards people in their community.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

None

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

Regulation 15 of The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010, the responsible individuals must provide us with a compliant statement of purpose.

Regulation 28 of The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010, the responsible individuals must make sure each staff file is complete.

Regulation 29 of The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010, the responsible individuals must ensure each staff member receives regular and individual supervision during the year. These meetings should be recorded.

Regulation 31 of The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010, the responsible individuals must inform us in writing of any changes at the service, such as staff and changes in the service's hours of opening

Regulation 6 Schedule 1 Part 2 19 (a) (b) of The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations, the responsible individual must provide us with an enhanced criminal record certificate countersigned by the Welsh Ministers. Once the responsible individual has been issued with her Disclosure and Barring Service certificate (DBS) she must present this to us at our office in Llandudno Junction.

Regulation 6 (3) (b) [iv]
(aa)

The person in charge did not have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate countersigned by the Welsh Ministers. The responsible individuals must ensure the person in charge provides us with a DBS certificate and present it to us at CSSIW North Wales Region, Welsh Government Office, Sarn Mynach, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9RZ

Regulation 8 (3) (a)

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

None

Areas where priority action is required

None

Areas where improvement is required

None

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