



Inspection Report

Cylch Meithrin Maenclochog

**Neuadd Gymunedol Maenclochog
Maenclochog
SA66 7LA**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

12/01/2023

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About Cylch Meithrin Maenclochog

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Person	Victoria Russant Eloise Himsworth
Registered places	24
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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.

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

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

Summary

Nearly all children are settled and are happy to take part in free play activities and access the resources available. Some children have the opportunity to communicate and make choices, but the child's voice is not always heard.

Staff follow some policies and procedures to promote well-being, safety and a healthy lifestyle. They offer some activities to promote the children's interests.

The people who run the service ensure the environment is generally safe. They offer some resources to meet the children's requirements and individual development stages.

The people who run the service meet some of the regulations and the national minimum standards. They have an adequate partnership with the parents.

Well-being**Adequate**

Most children are settled and are happy to take part in the basic range of activities on offer, for example playing with wooden characters in the tuff tray. Children feel safe and relaxed, with most interacting confidently. However, there were periods when some children found it difficult to share resources and to take turns. They received some support to understand what social rules to follow. Children are beginning to show concern and care for others. For example, a child responded to a child that was upset lunch time by offering to help them. Outside, some children worked together and took turns, and some were seen waiting eagerly before it was their go on the bikes.

Some children have the opportunity to communicate and make choices, but the child's voice is not always prominent. For example, during snack time a child stated they wanted to help, but they were not responded to. Some of the children's views and interests are valued. For example, when the children were playing in the role play area indoors, they were able to choose equipment and resources freely.

The majority of the children take part in activities and are active as they play. They show some interest and enjoyment in taking part, but they are not given the opportunity to choose planned activities and to pursue interests to further develop their learning. Some children persevere to complete activities, for example painting on the easel and creating objects using the Knex. Children enjoy the freedom to move around the indoor area, especially when they access the hall. Outside in the play area, children enjoy the freedom to make some choices, for example filling and emptying containers with water.

Most children are given the opportunity to develop physical, social and emotional skills through the limited activities that are organised for them. But children were not seen to be given full freedom to use the resources, as play provision was limited.

Care and Development**Adequate**

Staff follow some clear procedures when offering care and preparing activities. Staff are familiar with the snack preparation procedures, but do not wear gloves or aprons, or ensure proper storage of food and drink. Children did have constant access to drinking water during the session. When visiting the toilet, which is located in the main building of the hall, staff support children to be independent, for example, letting them wash their own hands. However, they do not ensure children have access to supplies to fully support independence whilst using the toilet, for example a supply of toilet roll. The practice of hand washing continues before snack time. There is a child safety and protection policy in place and nearly all staff are aware of the procedures to follow. Staff members are also aware of The Prevent Duty. However, staff are not clear on the requirement to record existing injuries.

Staff show an understanding of the importance of clear communication and encourage children to socialise, work together and respect each other. Staff praise children verbally, “Wow!” and “*Da iawn.*” They interact regularly with the children and offer some opportunities to consider feelings and behaviours, as well as social rules and boundaries. During outdoor play, staff suggest children share the ride on toys, “*Look, there are two seats on the bike.*” Staff encourage children to be independent as they attempt to wear their coats before accessing the outdoor area, as well as following snack when children clear their plates and cups.

There are some suitable opportunities for children’s play, learning and development, however there is no specific plan in place for activities. During the inspection visit, staff informed us the outdoors was their focus activity, however no specific activity was planned or undertaken whilst children were outdoors. There was a large emphasis on free play, allowing children to choose from the resources set out for them. Staff sit amongst the children on the floor and join in their play. The resources and provision are not always used in an effective manner due to a lack of planning and organisation. As a result, this limits the children’s play and learning.

Basic observations are carried out to track children’s development. However, these can be further improved in line with best practice. The Welsh language is used continuously.

Environment**Adequate**

The service is located in the village hall and has a dedicated room for the provision. Staff ensure the environment is generally a safe place for children. Entry to the building is gained through locked doors and visitor records are routinely completed, however general cleanliness of the carpet needs to be addressed. A children's register is completed for each session.

Basic risk assessments for the environment are in place, however staff members do not always undertake a premises check prior to children accessing the service and play areas. They have access to a dedicated outdoor area, which offers appropriate opportunities to develop the children's skills, however this is not utilised to its full potential due to lack of planning.

The environment is suitable for children to use. Children's art work is on display, along with Welsh language signage. Resources are appropriate for the age range of the children. They were seen to be clean and well maintained and children have access to an adequate range. However, play materials need to be better organised, so that children have constant access to them and the freedom to choose and make their own decisions. We saw children could choose from activities such as role play, small world, construction, art and craft and a 'cosy' area with books.

Staff ensure fire drills are carried out, however these records do not include the time of the fire drill. Safety certificates were not available for viewing on the day of the inspection visit, however we were forwarded evidence of these following the visit. The PAT certificate expired in April 2021, however this was rectified following the visit.

Leadership and Management

Poor

People who run the service ensure the statement of purpose includes all of the necessary details to meet the requirements of the National Minimum Standards. They have not completed a quality of care report since 2021 and this is noted as an area for improvement. The service has the required policies in place, but the staff are not completely familiar with all procedures, for example recording existing injuries and following the procedure for nappy changing.

Staff complete records in relation to accidents, however not all records include staff and parent signatures. Incident records were not available for viewing on the day of the inspection as staff could not locate the records. Parental consent is not fully in place for all children attending the service. The attendance of children and staff is recorded on the register and shows what time they arrive and leave.

The service occasionally uses committee members to meet ratio requirements, however the service providers do not ensure recruitment information is in place. We viewed staff files and found they do not include all the information required by regulation. Staff do not have regular supervision meetings. This was raised as a recommendation in the previous inspection. The service does not comply with regulations. We have issued an area for improvement for both staff suitability and supervisions. We expect the people who run the service to take action to address this and we will follow it up at the next inspection.

We spoke to parents and carers during the visit. We found some parents were happy with the service and recognised their children were happy when they arrived at the site and left the site, "*He loves it here.*" However, others felt they were not provided with any information in relation to their child's development or feedback following the session.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1: Become familiar with the children's requirements and preferences in order to plan according to their interests.

R2: Staff to ensure resources and supplies are organised and accessible.

R3: Observe children in order to develop their next stages of learning and development.

R4: Staff to further promote the child's voice.

R5: Staff to further improve hygiene practises.

R6: Staff and parents to sign all accident records.

R7: Staff to further develop an understanding of the new curriculum.

R8: Staff to complete a daily visual risk assessment of all areas.

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

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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16	The service provider is non compliant as no quality of care review had been undertaken since 2020. The service provider has failed to obtain views from service users in order to collate a review.	New
28	The provider is not compliant as not all staff suitability documents are in place.	New
29	Staff do not receive regular opportunities for one to one supervisions. This was raised as a recommendation in the previous inspection visit. Ensure regular opportunities for one to one supervisions.	New

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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