



Inspection Report

Cylch Y Coed

**Cyncoed Methodist Church Hall
Westminster Crescent
Cyncoed
Cardiff
CF23 6SE**

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

23/01/2024

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About Cylch Y Coed

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Provider	Cylch Y Coed
Registered places	20
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	27 September 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	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>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children are happy and enjoy attending the setting. They feel safe and secure in the care of staff. Children have good opportunities for play and learning and begin to develop their independence through a range of quality experiences and play.

Staff are professional, qualified and enjoy their work. They are kind, caring and interact well with children. They have a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. They are attentive to the needs of the children and respect the children in their care. They keep good records of children's progress.

The environment is secure, clean, welcoming, and well maintained. Staff pack away resources, equipment, and furniture at the end of every session. High quality furniture, toys and resources promote children's play and development. People who run the setting ensure the environment is safe and secure and that it promotes the health and well-being of children.

Leadership and management of the service requires development. The Person in Charge runs the setting day to day. Parents speak highly of the staff and the service that is provided for their children and families.

Children make choices and decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They freely choose from a wide range of activities. For example, we saw children choosing to participate in adult led activities such as biscuit decorating as well as enjoying free play with resources of their choice. Children are confident to approach staff and communicate their thoughts and ideas, as they know they are listened to and all their attempts at communication are valued. We saw a child point to an owl on a wall display and say 'Gwdihw' to which a member of staff reminded her that she had helped decorate this. However, children's artwork is not displayed around the setting.

Children are happy, settled and cope well with separation from their parents. They have good bonds of affection with staff who are kind and gentle. Children are familiar with the routine of the session which they enjoy and adds to their sense of safety and belonging. For example, we saw children eagerly tidying up and sitting on the mat in preparation for circle time.

Children are beginning to form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They play calmly alongside each other and together. Children are learning to respect each other and the resources of the setting, learning to share and use equipment appropriately.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. They benefit from a good range of age-appropriate play and learning resources in each room. They choose from a variety of exciting and enjoyable activities. We saw children delight in their play. For example, children experimenting with colours by using pipettes to drip food colouring onto kitchen paper. This activity reinforced the theme of the week 'lilwiau' (colours). Children are motivated to follow their own interests and sustain their play for periods suitable to their age and stage of development.

Children develop a good range of skills as they play. They have many opportunities to become independent around the setting. However, they do not serve themselves at snack time. Children learn to manage their own health and hygiene needs. For example, children use the toilet and wash their hands with minimal support from staff.

Care and Development

Good

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. They are competent in keeping children safe, secure, and healthy. Staff follow procedures in place to promote the welfare of children, including a thorough safeguarding policy. Staff we spoke to were confident regarding their role in protecting children. Staff have a good understanding of children's health needs including allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. Staff record accidents and incidents consistently which are signed and dated by parents and carers. The Person in charge (PiC) monitors accidents, incidents, and existing injuries to identify any patterns. Staff ensure children wash their hands in preparation for snack time and wipe down tables before and after snack. Snack is healthy with crackers, cucumber and peppers offered to the children along with the option of milk or water on the day of the inspection.

Staff work well together to support and promote children's social behaviour. They are positive role models to the children in their care, treating them and each other with care, respect, and kindness. We heard staff reminding children of good manners with 'os gwelwch yn dda' ('please') and 'diolch' ('thank you') encouraged. Staff ensure that good quality practice is maintained throughout each day. Staff show an interest in children's achievements and are enthusiastic when a child completes an activity independently. For example, a member of staff excitedly praised a child's art creation saying '*llun hyfryd, da iawn ti*' ('lovely picture, well done you').

Staff are supportive and engage positively with children to support their play, learning and development. There is a good system in place for recording and identifying children's progress and next steps in their learning. Staff plan a good variety of activities, which follows the children's input and interests. The use of Welsh within the setting is very strong.

Environment

Good

The premises are warm, safe, and well maintained. The setting is located in a large room within a church building. The entrance into the setting is secure and locked doors ensure only authorised access is granted by members of staff. Visitors sign in and out on entry and exit of the setting. Registers record the times children and staff arrive and leave the premises. Comprehensive risk assessments are in place for the premises and activities carried out. Staff keep children safe by completing daily safety checks of the environment to identify and where possible eliminate risks to children's safety. Routine safety checks and certificates for the building and appliances are in place. Records show that fire drills are carried out regularly and insurance certificates are up to date.

The environment is welcoming and child friendly. It is well decorated with calming, neutral colours, giving a relaxed and homely feel to the setting. The main childcare room is spacious and light allowing children a large space and freedom to move around as they play. The room is well organised and laid out in an interesting manner to stimulate children's curiosity, exploration, and development. There is a good range of purposeful resources and books which are easily accessible to children encouraging their independence. The outdoor area is not currently accessible to children as the outdoor developments are not completed.

Toys, resources, furniture, and equipment at the setting are in a good condition, well maintained and of very good quality. The setting has suitable furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs, and low-level toy storage, suitable for the ages of children who access the setting. We also saw that children had celebrated St David's Day, Chinese New Year, Diwali and were preparing for Diwrnod Santes Dwynwen at the setting. This gives children an awareness of the world around them and opportunities to learn about Welsh history and culture. There are a suitable number of toilets and nappy changing facilities available, which are clean and fresh. Liquid soap and hand drying facilities are accessible to support children's independence when addressing their personal care.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

Leadership and management of the service requires development. At the time of the inspection, people who run the service were in discussion with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) regarding a change to their legal status. The current Person in charge (PiC) is a strong leader. She has a clear vision of how she wishes to further develop the setting and leads the staff team very well. The statement of purpose provides parents with information about the service so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child.

At the time of inspection, there was no Responsible Individual linked to the service. As this is a regulatory requirement, this is an area for improvement. While no immediate action is required, we expect the provider to take action.

All relevant pre-employment checks are made to ensure staff are suitable to work with children. There is a clear system in place to ensure that staff's Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) are up to date. There is a system in place to keep track of mandatory training. The PiC ensures that staff are booked onto mandatory training, well in advance of their expiry dates to ensure their skills and knowledge are always maintained. The PiC holds regular one to one supervision with staff which allows them to discuss concerns, safeguarding and training opportunities. However, the PiC has not received an up to date one to one supervision for her own needs and staff have not received recent annual appraisals. This is an area for improvement and while no immediate action is required, we expect the provider to take action. Since the inspection, the PiC has told us that she has planned dates to carry out staff appraisals.

There is a detailed quality of care report in place which celebrates the setting's achievements and helps plan for future improvements. This report considers the views of children, staff and parents.

Staff we spoke to during the inspection told us that they are happy in their roles and feel very supported by the PiC. They told us that they have regular meetings and share ideas for activities to carry out with the children. The setting has established trust and good communication links with parents. Parents we spoke with told us that staff are approachable, and they are happy with the service that is provided to their families. They also told us that they value staff's feedback on their children's development.

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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29	There was no evidence of regular one to one supervisions for the Person in Charge (PiC) since 24 March 2021 and there was no evidence of annual appraisals for members of staff since 3/10/2019, 8/12/2021, 13/12/2021 & 8/12/2021. Ensure that supervisions for the PiC and annual appraisals for members of staff are carried out in a timely manner and formally recorded.	New
6	There was no RI linked to the service at the time of inspection on 19 & 23 January 2024. Ensure that an RI is registered with CIW to ensure there is someone with legal responsibility for the service.	New

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 8 - Nurture and well-being	Ensure children are given opportunities to be more independent at snack time.
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure work on the garden is finalised so children can access the area.

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 children's art work is displayed to give children a sense of ownership and belonging.

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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Date Published 05/03/2024