



Inspection Report for

Cylch Meithrin Abergwili

**Ysgol Gynradd Abergwili
Gyfre Gardens
Abergwili
Carmarthen
SA31 2JD**



Date Inspection Completed

16/05/2022

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2022.

You may use and reuse the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge, in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government Licence on the National Archives website, or you can write to The Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

About Cylch Meithrin Abergwili

| | |
|--|---|
| Type of care provided | Children's day care Sessional day care |
| Registered Person (RP) | Elinor Jameson |
| Maximum number of registered places | 13 |
| Language of the service | Welsh |
| Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection | 11.01.17 |
| 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

Most children are settled and are happy to take part in the activities that have been prepared for them. Some children have the opportunity to communicate and make choices, but the child's voice is not always heard.

Care 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 that some elements of the environment are safe and have implemented a number of measures to ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities. 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 a good partnership with the neighbouring school and the parents.

Well-being

Most children are settled and are happy to take part in the activities that have been prepared for them. Children feel safe and relaxed, with most interacting confidently. However, there were periods where some children found it difficult to share resources and to take turns, and they received support to understand what social rules to follow. Children are beginning to show concern and care for others. For example, a child responded to another sneezing with 'bless you'. Outside, some children worked together while they watched each other and took turns, and children were seen waiting eagerly before it was their turn on the bikes.

Some children have the opportunity to communicate and make choices, but the child's voice is not always prominent. For example, when taking part in a painting activity, children followed the care staff's suggestions rather than their own individual ideas. Some of the children's views and interests are valued, and this was seen when the children were outside, as they were able to choose equipment and resources and were given the freedom to use them.

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 activities and to pursue interests to further develop their learning. Some children persevere to complete activities that interest them and enjoy the freedom to move around the indoor area. Outside in the play area, children enjoy the freedom to move around, to make choices, and to develop skills and their independence.

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

Care and Development

Care staff follow some clear procedures when offering care and preparing activities. Care staff are familiar with the snack preparation procedures, but do not wear gloves or aprons, or ensure proper storage of food and drink. The children did not have constant access to drinking water during the session. When visiting the toilet, which is located in the main building of the neighbouring school, care staff support children to be independent, for example, letting them wash their own hands. The practice of hand washing continues before snack time. The setting has policies in place for administering medication and for keeping the site's fire drill and safety records, but the care staff's understanding and awareness of children's safety and health procedures were not obvious. Even though there is a child safety and protection policy in place, staff are not confident with the procedures and, as a result of this, the service does not comply with the regulations. We have issued a priority action notice and the provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

Care staff show an understanding of the importance of clear communication and encourage children to socialise, work together and respect each other. 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, care staff suggest ways they can share and take turns.

The resources and provision are not used in an effective manner, and this limits the children's play and learning. Care staff said that plans are in place to develop a Healthy Eating Plan.

Environment

The service is located in the school's canteen. The shutter between the kitchen and the canteen was defective, although repair arrangements were in progress. As there is only one door for those who arrive and leave the site, it poses a significant risk to the children and, as a result, the service does not comply with regulations. We have issued a priority action notice and the provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

Some risk assessments were seen, but these were general assessments. There isn't a risk assessment for the use of the building to ensure that the site is free of any dangers. Children are guided safely by care staff from the site to the nearby school for hand washing and toilet use. The person in charge explained that she was eager to arrange to have a telephone on site so that parents could contact the service directly rather than having to contact the school. The site's main door is always locked during care sessions and staff ratios are correct.

The floor space is narrow and affects the children's play as well as the suitability of the environment. There is no access to water on site and care staff do their best to ensure safety with regards to the main door and the procedures for going to the toilet and washing hands. There is a small play area in front of the site and plans are in progress to develop this area. They also use the school yard, which offers safe opportunities to develop the children's skills.

Children do not have full access to the resources inside as canteen tables are stored in front of resource cupboards and are an obvious obstacle for the children. They also pose a risk, as a child tried to climb the stools that are connected to the tables. Although there is a range of resources on the site, play materials need to be renewed and to be better organised, so that children have constant access to them and the freedom to choose and make their own decisions.

Leadership and Management

A new person in charge has been working on the site, but Care Inspectorate Wales were not notified and care staff said that arrangements were also in progress to register a new registered person. Following the visit, discussions and arrangements are in progress to process these changes in order to meet requirements and regulations. Although we have received a new statement of purpose, this does not reflect any change to the service. The registered person has updated the statement since the visit, but it does not include all of the necessary details to meet the requirements of the National Minimum Standards. They have completed a quality report. The service has a comprehensive file of Mudiad Meithrin's policies, but the staff are not completely familiar with these procedures.

It is not clear whether care staff understand the requirements regarding confidentiality and records – for example, accident and medication records, and care staff signatures and parental consent, are not in place. The attendance of children and staff is not recorded on the register, it does not show at what time they arrive and leave, and neither is there a clear and consistent record of care staff attendance which corresponds with the information on the register.

The service occasionally uses school staff in order to meet ratio requirements, but the registered person does not ensure that the recruitment information is in place and that staff qualifications meet the requirements. Staff do not have annual appraisals and regular supervision meetings. The service does not comply with regulations. We have issued a priority action notice and the provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

It is evident that there is a strong partnership between the setting and the school, and the care staff receive the support of Mudiad Meithrin's Development Officer. Parents said they were happy with the service and recognised that their children were happy when they arrived at the site and left the site.

Recommendations to meet the National Minimum Standards

Manually add R1, R2 etc. and the wording required. These are not regulations, but national minimum standards.

R 1 – Become familiar with the children’s requirements and preferences in order to plan according to their interests.

R 2 – Organise resources so that the children can easily access them.

R 3 – Observe children in order to develop their next stages of learning and development.

R 4 – Promote the child’s voice.

R 5 – Care staff to wear gloves and aprons when preparing and handling food and make arrangements for drinking water to be always available.

R 6 – Staff and parents to sign medication administration records every time.

R 7 – Ensure there is at least one qualified member of staff on site at all times.

R 8 – Rearrange the play area to offer a suitable and sufficient space for a wide range of play and learning opportunities.

R 9 – Safe storage of children’s records and any confidential records on site.

Summary of non-compliance

| Status | What each means |
|---------------------|---|
| New | This non-compliance was identified at the 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 the 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 |
|------------|---|--------|
| 30 | Not all required attendance records are complete. Ensure all regulatory records are completed. | New |
| 28 | Has not obtained all required information to evidence staff suitability before they start at the setting. Ensure staff suitability before they start at the setting. | New |
| 22 | Not all staff have a clear understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and arrangements. Ensure all staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and arrangements. | New |
| 29 | Staff do not receive supervision and appraisal. Ensure all staff receive supervision and appraisal. | New |
| 25 | Not all parts of the relevant premises are free from hazards to children's safety. Ensure premises are safe and hazard free. | New |

When 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 |
| N/A | No non-compliance of this type was identified in the inspection | N/A |

Date Published 28/07/2022