



Inspection Report

Kidz Den Afterschool Club

**Treharris Community Centre
Perrott Street
Treharris
CF46 5ER**



Date Inspection Completed

16/09/2021

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About Kidz Den Afterschool Club

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Out of School Care
Registered Provider	Kidz Den Afterschool Club
Registered places	30
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Post registration inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people/children who use, or intend to use the service.

Summary

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

Children very much enjoy the time they spend at the service and benefit from a broad range of fun activities. They have positive relationships with staff and enjoy making friendships with their peers. There are good opportunities for them to learn new skills and develop independence.

Staff are approachable and meet the needs of children in their care. They understand their roles and responsibilities and ensure that children benefit from a wide selection of age appropriate play and learning activities during their time at the service.

The environment is suitable for the needs of children. There is sufficient space for them to play in comfortable and the premises is safe and secure. There is a plentiful supply of play resources and sufficient facilities available.

Leadership and management is effective with appropriate record keeping systems to facilitate the running of the service. There is a system for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the service to ensure improvements. Partnership with parents is strong and parents very much appreciate what the service offers to them and their children.

Children very much enjoy the time they spend at the service. They benefit from a broad selection of play opportunities and enjoy quieter activities such as arts and crafts, as well as more boisterous and energetic physical activities. We observed some children reading and using ICT equipment, whilst others joined in skipping, football and badminton activities. We spoke to a number of children, all of whom told us they like attending the club and enjoy playing sports and being with their friends.

Children have a strong voice at the service. They have an active voice in decision making via the children's committee and their opinions are valued. During sessions, they are able to make decisions about what they do. They choose their activities independently and following their specific interests. At snack time, they choose what they want from options available and staff listen and respect the choices they make.

Children are comfortable and at ease with the routines of the service. They settle quickly on arrival and immediately find something to occupy their time. Snack time is a sociable event, where children sit with others whilst they eat their food. There are positive relationships developing between children and with staff who care for them and children enjoy opportunities to play in small and large groups. We noted children across age ranges playing nicely together, listening to what others had to say and being respectful of each other at all times. We saw children approach staff to engage them in conversations and noted the children very much enjoy staff participation in sporting activities.

Children have good opportunities to extend their skills and independence. They hang up their coats and bags on arrival. They choose their own play resources and sessions are child led, so that children fully influence their play and learning. They are encouraged to take an interest in the running of the service and as part of the children's committee have delegated roles such as sports organiser and Eco co-ordinator. This gives children a sense of responsibility and ownership of the service.

Staff understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to children's safety and well-being. They have a working knowledge of key policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding and infection control. They work together to implement safe hygiene practices and cleaning routines, which helps to ensure the promotion of children's well-being. There is a Covid-19 policy and a system for identifying and where possible minimising hazards. There is a system for recording accidents and incidents and senior staff review these records to identify any patterns or areas of concern. Staff promote children's health and well-being, offering a variety of nutritional snacks and during the registration process, gather information on children's specific dietary requirements.

Staff support children's social development and behaviour in a positive and constructive way. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy and the strategies outlined in the policy are suitable for the age range of children who attend the service. Staff understand what strategies to use when supporting children and act as positive role models. They treat each other and children respectfully at all times, and understand the importance of modelling good behaviour.

Staff understand the importance of play and the importance of giving children space to make decisions regarding their play. The focus of sessions is very much child led with the emphasis on children influencing what they do throughout their time at the club. Staff recognise the importance of physical play and ensure that there are numerous opportunities for children to engage in sporting activities. As a staff team, they are enthusiastic and motivated and are happy to join in activities alongside children. In general, sessions are well organised, although for a brief time we noted that the number of children in the playroom exceeded the number the space is registered for. There is evidence of planning and records indicate a good range of age appropriate play opportunities for children. Staff review and evaluate the effectiveness of activities offered and take into account children's views as part of this process.

The service operates from a local community centre and benefits from a dedicated playroom and, subject to availability, access to a large sports hall. There are appropriate safety procedures in place with an intercom entry system. There is a system for completing required health and safety checks to ensure the suitability of the premises. Staff at the service complete regular safety checks and undertake fire evacuation drills at suitable intervals. This means children have an understanding of what to do should an emergency arise.

The premises is suitable for children and provides sufficient space for them to play and learn in comfort. There is an appropriate standard of décor and the playroom benefits from sufficient natural light. The number of children the service can accommodate fluctuates depending on whether the sports hall is available and the premises has seen improvements in respect of toilet facilities, the kitchen and flooring in the sports hall. The addition of new coat hooks in the reception area gives children more space to store their belongings. The kitchen area whilst small; is now a more useable space with room for two fridges, one of which is used for the storage of lunch boxes.

There is a good selection of resources with a plentiful supply of different board games and a suitable range of reading materials. There are good supplies of art and craft materials easily accessible to children and a varied selection of sporting equipment to promote children's physical development. There is adequate seating for relaxation and a number of tables and chair appropriate for snack time and quieter table - top activities. The vast sports hall provides invaluable space for sporting activities, and children make good use of this facility.

People who run the service have a vision to expand the provision in the coming years. The responsible individual and person in charge are in regular contact and there are meetings with appointed trustees. The statement of purpose provides sufficient information about the service and this means parents can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. There are appropriate record keeping systems to support the smooth running of the service with suitable maintenance of daily records.

Monitoring and reviewing of the service takes place to identify areas for improvement. This process includes an annual review of quality of care report outlining changes and improvements planned for the service. As part of this process, there is consultation with children and parents, including speaking to parents and children and gathering information via questionnaires, which then feeds into the annual review report.

Management of the service is appropriate. Senior staff are well qualified and experienced; the small staff team is suitably qualified and records indicate appropriate maintenance of staff/child ratios. There are some opportunities to undertake training and the majority of staff have up to date safeguarding and first aid training; however, most staff have not completed behaviour management training in recent years. A number of staff are currently completing a play work qualification with completion scheduled for next summer. Team meetings are organised at the beginning of the term and at the end to discuss issues around the running of the service. There is a formal system for one to one staff supervision so that staff can discuss their practice and issues relating to their roles and responsibilities.

There are strong partnerships with parents. We spoke to nine parents in total. All were extremely complimentary about the staff including the person in charge, commenting on the flexibility of the service and the positive support and care their children receive. The service maintains good channels of communication with parents and produces termly newsletters to keep parents abreast of changes and events.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Re-organise sessions to ensure that the number of children in the playroom does not exceed 15 at any time.

R2. Provide opportunities for staff to undertake additional training.

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

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

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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