



Inspection Report

Toddlers Preschool

**Canol Y Bryn
Heol Tai Mawr
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1ND**



Date Inspection Completed

05/07/2023

About Toddlers Preschool

Type of care provided	Childrens Day Care Sessional Day Care
Registered Provider	Toddlers @ Coed-y-Dderwen
Registered places	20
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	15 December 2022
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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Summary

This was a focused inspection, and on this occasion, we did not consider all themes in detail.

Children are happy and enjoy attending the setting. They feel safe and secure in the care of staff. Children receive suitable opportunities for play and learning and can make some choices about how to spend their time. However, a few children do not fully benefit from some of the experiences available. Children are developing their independence through a range of routines and activities.

Staff consider the health and safety of children. They implement the setting's policies and procedures. However, some records lack detail regarding actions taken by staff. Staff follow and promote good hygiene practices.

The setting is safe and secure. There are suitable measures to carry out and log all necessary safety checks. People who run the service have devised adequate risk assessments and daily check lists. Some require development to ensure they are robust and provide staff with clear procedures to follow to eliminate risks.

The people who run the setting are committed to providing a quality service. Staff files contain all the necessary information required by regulation to evidence their suitability.

Well-being

Nearly all children have suitable opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time. Children can move freely between the indoor and outdoor environments, making decisions as to where and what they want to play with from the variety of interesting toys and activities available to them. Children express themselves effectively, knowing staff listen to their needs, moods and wants. Children are encouraged but not required to participate in activities and routines if they do not wish to. For example, a child chose not to participate in the 'bucket challenge' activity but to read a book, which was supported.

Children are very happy at the setting; they feel valued and have a strong sense of belonging. They clearly enjoy being in the company of other children, forming warm and affectionate friendships and developing secure relationships with staff. Children know the daily routines very well, which helps them feel settled and confident in their surroundings. However, a few of the routines require children to sit for extended periods of time, due to the order in which key routines are completed. For example, the 'bucket challenge' activity is followed immediately by snack time and then tooth brushing. All of which require children to sit down if they wish to participate. Therefore, some children can find this challenging and do not benefit fully from all the experiences available. Children receive lots of encouragement and praise from staff when learning new skills, giving them the confidence to play and learn. For example, a child showed great delight when they successfully negotiated the scissors to make a cut during a craft activity.

Nearly all children are relaxed and enjoy their time at the setting. They interact positively with their friends and staff, playing happily alongside each other or together. Children are learning to share toys and resources. We saw two children working together to roll a large barrel back and forth in the outside space. They communicated to problem solve and identify how they could roll the barrel together.

Nearly all children enjoy and are engaged in their play. They are enthusiastic and fully involved in the activities provided. They benefit from a variety of play opportunities. Children are motivated to follow their own interests and sustain their play for periods suitable to their stage of development.

Children are beginning to develop a wide range of skills as they play and engage in routines. They have good opportunities to become independent, enabling them to do things for themselves. We saw children competently accessing the drinking water dispenser, using the tap to fill the cup and brush their teeth independently. This promotes children's self-help skills and builds their self-esteem.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Staff consider children's health and safety needs suitably. They follow procedures to accurately record arrival and departure times of staff and children. Staff ensure that medication records are completed and maintained appropriately, outlining the necessary steps to be taken when managing children who have ongoing health conditions. They complete and organise accident and incident records appropriately. However, records do not always contain all the actions taken by staff. For example, they do not record monitoring periods applied and when parents/carers have been informed of an incident affecting their child's welfare. Staff follow and promote good hygiene practices in line with infection control guidance. For example, children are reminded to cover their mouth when coughing.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The setting is safe and secure and provides ample space for children to play and learn. The people who run the setting have put suitable processes in place to ensure the safety of the environment. They ensure that regular fire drills are completed, so staff and children know how to evacuate the building safely in the event of an emergency. They ensure that fire safety equipment checks including emergency lighting are logged and completed within the required timescales. There are adequate risk assessments in place and staff carry out daily safety checks of all areas. However, these are not robust as they do not include all potential hazards, or actions to be taken to eliminate risks. Therefore, they do not provide staff with clear procedures to follow.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The people who run the setting are committed to providing a quality service and respond positively to recommendations for improvement. They have devised a clear statement of purpose which provides parents with the relevant information about the setting, so they can make an informed choice. People who run the setting have provided a suitable range of policies and procedures to support the running of the setting. They have recently reviewed these, to reflect current practice and provide staff with clear instructions as to what is required of them. The people who run the setting ensure that all staff employed to work at the setting are appropriate to do so. All staff files contain the information required by regulation to evidence their suitability.

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
30	The responsible individual failed to ensure that accurate records such as children and staff hours of attendance, accident records and records to support staff when administering emergency medication are completed. The responsible individual must ensure that procedures are in place and followed by staff to maintain accurate records to safeguard children's health and safety.	Achieved

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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
38	The responsible individual has not ensured that required fire safety equipment has been regularly tested and fire drill practices with children have been carried out. Adequate fire safety precautions must be in place and followed routinely.	Achieved
28	The responsible individual has failed to ensure that all required suitability checks regarding staff employed have been carried out prior to appointment at the setting. The responsible individual must be satisfied that staff employed have the appropriate skills and are suitable to work with children.	Achieved

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 24 - Safety	To develop risk assessments to ensure they are robust.

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)
To review routines to ensure they enable all children to benefit from the experiences

available.

To ensure that all actions taken by staff are clearly documented with regard to accident forms.

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