



Inspection Report

Dwylo Bach Pre-School

**Dowlais Infant School
Market Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 3HW**



Date Inspection Completed

15/10/2021

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2021.

You may use and re-use 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 License, 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 Dwylo Bach Pre-School

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	Committee of Dwylo Bach Pre-School
Registered places	18
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 November 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	<i>'This is a service that 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 their service.'</i>

Summary

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

Children are happy and settled. They have good opportunities for play and learning within a nurturing setting. They have opportunities to become independent and develop their skills through a range of good play experiences. Children form close bonds with each other and staff.

Staff are professional, well qualified and work well together. They have a good understanding of how to keep children healthy. Staff implement Covid-19 policies and procedures well. They plan a good variety of activities, which include children's interests and ideas. Staff keep good records of children's progress.

The environment is very well resourced. There is a good range of toys and resources available for children's play throughout the setting. The environment is clean and welcoming. Staff follow procedures to ensure that the environment is safe and suitable with adequate risk assessments in place.

The leadership and management of the setting is effective. There is a clear vision for the future of the service and the management team supports staff in their roles. Parents are complimentary and speak highly of staff and the care their children receive.

Well-being

Children are encouraged to make their own decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They are able to choose from a variety of activities. Children's self-expression is encouraged and we saw wall displays celebrating the children's individual work. Children are listened to and have conversations with staff about their interests and ideas. We saw a member of staff talking to a child about their spider printing.

Children are very content, happy and valued. They develop strong attachments with key workers and they are comfortable to approach familiar people when they need help or reassurance. Children gain a sense of security from being familiar with the routine of the service. They are beginning to form friendships with others and we saw children happily playing together with the activities on offer to them.

Children play well together and are learning to share and co-operate. Children sat happily together and were reminded by staff to use 'please' and 'thank you'. Where children were playing alone, they were content and soon joined by other children and staff in their games.

Children have good opportunities to develop their skills with the play and learning experiences provided. The children are curious and engaged learners who value the chance to explore the environment. The emphasis is on free play but there are also structured, adult led activities which children participate in and enjoy. We saw children choosing to play with other activities than the adult led ones on offer.

Children have some opportunities to develop self-help skills. They are confident to follow their own interests and seek out activities that interest them. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves. We saw children being encouraged to put on aprons for a painting activity. Children sit well at mealtimes and are provided with healthy choices.

Care and Development

Staff have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the setting. They are effective in keeping children safe and healthy. Staff are aware of their role in protecting children. Staff follow the setting's safeguarding procedures and complete the relevant paperwork to promote children's safety. Staff are clear about safety procedures for the setting and their responsibilities in relation to infection control. There are policies and procedures in place, including a robust Covid-19 policy, which are reviewed regularly. Accident and incident records are completed. However, these are not always signed by staff and parents and they are not monitored to identify trends which need to be addressed. Acting as good role models, staff encourage children to be kind to each other, to help tidy up, and they sit with them at snack time to promote their social skills.

Staff are motivated, well qualified and keen to effectively promote children's development. They communicate with each other consistently and are aware of their individual roles in delivering nurturing, responsive care. Children's personal needs are attended to promptly, they are treated with respect and they are valued as individuals. Staff praise the children's efforts during activities and routines. We heard a member of staff praise a child during a spider printing activity "*Good job! Your spider has lots of eyes.*" Staff plan a good range of interesting activities based on the principles of the Foundation Phase. Key workers monitor children's progress well with regular observations and developmental progress tracking systems. They are nurturing and consistent in their approach and provide realistic boundaries for children to follow. Staff have undertaken a number of training courses which allows them to support the children confidently. Staff have received training to deliver very good circle time sessions. We saw children sitting for an extended period of time while fully engaged in the activities.

Staff plan a variety of activities, which follow the children's ideas and interests. Assessments and targets are based upon children's learning and development needs. They carry out communication assessments along with observations which are kept in children's files which document their time at the setting. The use of incidental Welsh is strong within the setting.

Environment

The environment is safe, secure and attractive, providing spacious accommodation for children's activities. Staff complete safety checks of the environment to identify and where possible, eliminate any risks to children's safety. Non-essential visitors are not permitted due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, essential visitors are not always asked to sign in on entry. Safety certificates are up to date including gas boiler service. In-depth policies and procedures, including a Covid-19 policy. There is a Covid-19 risk assessment in place, which staff implement to keep everyone safe during the pandemic. There are effective risk assessments in place for all aspects of the premises that identify and eliminate risks. However, fire evacuation drills are not up to date. Infection control is managed effectively and the service keeps up to date with current Public Health Wales guidance.

The environment is clean, welcoming and well maintained. The main playroom is adequately resourced and there is an ample sized outdoor play area which the children access under staff supervision. Activities are well organised, equipment and resources are accessible for children to use independently. We saw children choosing to add additional toys to further enhance their play. There is a good range of toys and learning materials that meet the needs of the children. Resources are stored on units, suitable for the children to access independently. There is a recycling role play area which the children can access and we saw children sorting a variety of materials into the correct recycling bins.

The toilet facilities are clean and staff accompany children to the toilet due to the layout of the room. Children's work is displayed on the walls which provides them with a sense of belonging at the service.

Leadership and Management

Leadership and management of the service is good. The person in charge is experienced and provides good daily support to the staff team, who are well qualified and knowledgeable. Leaders have a vision for the service and there is a setting development plan in place to keep track of changes planned over the coming year. The statement of purpose is detailed and provides parents with good information about the setting so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. There are detailed policies and procedures in place which the Responsible Individual (RI) reviews and updates routinely. All mandatory staff training, including safeguarding and food hygiene are up to date.

Observations and discussions take place daily to assess and evaluate any improvements needed from the child's point of view. Children are involved in decision making throughout the session. There is a complaint policy, although no complaints have been received. The annual quality of care report is up to date.

Staff are deployed effectively and are clear about their responsibilities. They told us they feel supported by the management team and they have the skills and training to enable them to carry out their roles to a high standard. Staff files are complete and all relevant checks to ensure staff are suitable to work with children are in place. All staff receive annual appraisals and regular supervisions to monitor their performance and identify further training.

People who run the service have established trust and very good communication links with parents. Parents we spoke to praise the service they receive and the staff. They told us that staff are supportive and that nothing is a problem for them, this includes staff helping parents to get more support at home arranged through the Flying Start services. Children benefit from the service being operated as part of the Flying Start programme.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Ensure accident and incident forms are completed and trends are monitored.

R2. Ensure visitors sign in on entry to the setting.

R3. Ensure fire drills are carried out in line with intakes of children.

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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at	N/A

	this inspection	
--	-----------------	--

Date Published 19/11/2021