



Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 Child Minding and Day Care (Inspection and Information for Local Authorities) (Wales) Regulations 2010 The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010

Inspection Report

The Mill Day Nursery - Mold

Nercwys Junction
Wrexham Road
Mold
CH4 7ED

Type of Inspection – Focussed
Date of inspection – 29 August 2013
Date of publication – 9 October 2013

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Summary

About the service

The Mill Day Nursery operates Monday to Friday throughout the year (except for Bank Holidays) 7.45am to 5.45pm from a self contained, purpose built one storey building located close to the centre of Mold. Care is provided for up to 29 children at any one time, aged from three months to five years of age. The children are cared for in groups according to age and ability in spacious, well equipped baby, and separate toddler and pre school room. Other rooms used by the children include a quiet room, sleep room, bathroom, dining room and messy play area. For staff there is an office and staff room. Each of the main rooms used for childcare have direct access to a soft surfaced outdoor play area equipped with age appropriate large play equipment and a tarmac area for riding bikes and ride on toys. The nursery has planting boxes used for growing seasonal fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The owner and registered person of this setting is Maria Sciarrillo and person in charge Kirsty Palmer, both are involved in the day to day running of the nursery and are assisted by two deputy managers and seven care staff. The nursery promotes bilingualism as four children attending are able to communicate through the medium of Welsh.

The nursery provides a drop off and pick up service from local schools after nursery sessions and at the beginning and end of the school day.

What type of inspection was carried out?

This was an unannounced, scheduled, focussed inspection taking into consideration the quality of life experiences of the children being cared for on the day of the inspection.

We considered the past history of the setting, its current registration certificate, statement of purpose, previous inspection report published in June 2013 and self assessment of service statement provided prior to the inspection. We the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) spoke to the registered person, person in charge, children and staff, observed the children at play and their interactions with the staff members and other children present and examined staff and parent questionnaires returned to the CSSIW. The areas being used by the child and the resources available on the day of the inspection were also seen.

What does the service do well?

The registered person, person in charge and staff spoken to on the day of the inspection were found to be warm natured, very welcoming and keen to speak to us. They confirmed that they enjoyed their work and are well motivated, they felt this may be due to the close relationships they have with the children and their parents and the support received from the management team and colleagues. Staff turnover at this nursery is low and reliable relief staff cover absences.

The nursery provides funded places for 3 year olds in line with the Early Years Entitlement Scheme. Some staff attend training provided by the Early Years Team and have been trained in line with The Foundation Phase provision and its framework for learning which is monitored by Estyn.

Staff at this nursery communicate well with parents in a variety of ways. Telephone calls, daily diaries, e-mails, meetings with parents during the day and organised parent evenings, termly newsletters and notice boards in base rooms ensure that parents are kept informed.

Management at the nursery actively seek the opinions of the children, parents and staff in order to make continual improvements to the setting. The management team also ensure that recommendations made by CSSIW are considered. This is beneficial to service users and those employed at the setting as their voices are heard and they experience a continually improving service.

The kitchen at the nursery has achieved a food hygiene rating of 5 stars in June 2013. This is beneficial to service users as they can be reassured that food is being prepared in a suitable and clean environment.

The nursery is affiliated to The National Day Nursery Association (NDNA) and keeps up to date with changes by accessing their website and that of the CSSIW. The registered person also ensures that the CSSIW are informed as required by the Child Minding & Day Care Regulations (Wales) 2010 of any significant changes in the service such as changes to their Statement of Purpose, staff name changes, new staff employed and those leaving the setting, and updates and reports from other external agencies.

The Mill Day Nursery is a well resourced, clean, bright and stimulating environment. This is beneficial to children as it enhances their enjoyment of the environment and helps them to develop and follow interests.

The staff encourage the children to be independent whilst offering responsive care as and when the children need it. The children were able to access play and learning resources with ease as these were labelled with pictures and words within the children's reach. Encouraging independence is important for children as it helps to promote their self esteem and confidence.

The use of Welsh as a first and second language is promoted within this nursery. Appropriate Ticw Bear resources are used by staff to gain the interest of those children learning Welsh as a second language. The nursery has a fluent Welsh speaking member of staff, all other staff are enthusiastic learners.

The nursery completed the required Infection Control Audit and were willing to listen to advice given during a visit from Public Health Wales in June 2013.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the previous inspection in June 2012 the management team at The Mill Day Nursery have reorganised the toddler / pre school room to allow for the separation of the toddlers and pre school children with their key workers. This makes the process of observing individuals and managing groups of children easier.

The quality of service provided has been reviewed, policies and procedures updated and staff meetings held to provide an opportunity for staff to make suggestions in July 2013

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of non compliance to report.

Positive practice recommendations discussed with the registered person and / or the person in charge to achieve improvements included a review of The Statement of Purpose for the setting. This document must be clear and effective in communicating what the service delivers and contain all details as required in Regulation 15 (1) and National Minimum Standard 1.2. A copy of the revised document must be forwarded to CSSIW. The registered person is also in the process of updating the nursery website.

Quality of life

Children attending the setting were seen to have fun and be engaged in their chosen activity. They had rights and control over the activities they chose and were fulfilled by the activities on offer. Children's physical and emotional needs were met by those caring for them.

Children have good choice and a variety of age appropriate activities to stimulate and engage them. On our arrival three babies aged seven to eighteen months were being cared for by two staff in the baby room whilst nine toddlers and pre school children were being cared for by two staff members in their base room. Interactions between the staff and children were positive and generated a happy atmosphere. Younger children were able to access toys on a mat on the floor or fetch those stored away at a low level, the staff supported the children and were observed teaching them how to use the resources and play items such as ball rolling. We heard a member of staff ask the children "are we going outside on the swing after?" When outdoors the children were asked which swings they would like to sit on and were safely strapped in. During circle time the older children chose the songs and rhymes and talked about the activities they had enjoyed during the morning. Giving children choice is beneficial as it promotes their independence, stimulates them and ensures their time is happily spent.

Children are active, positively occupied and stimulated and there are opportunities for children to play outdoors in the fresh air and to develop their physical skills according to their age and stage of development. We saw that the babies were busy engaged in play, interacting with their key workers, rolling a variety of balls and looking at an electronic book. Imaginative play was encouraged in the tent. A child that had only been at the nursery for two days had settled in really well and was happy and content with her carer. The toddler and pre school children enjoyed a music session, they sang and shook their percussion instruments enthusiastically, after they all went outdoors to play on the bikes and scooters, and to swing and climb on the large play equipment, chalk on boards and to help the 'Helpwr Heddiw' to water the plants. There were plenty of good quality toys for children to play with both indoors and outdoors and lots of space to play in. Throughout the inspection the different groups of children were seen to access and play outdoors at various times. Outdoor play is beneficial to children's physical well being as it allows them to be active and stay healthy.

Children experience appropriate, responsive care from carers who have an up to date understanding of their individual needs and preferences but at the same time independence is promoted. We saw a staff member bottle feeding a baby on her lap, changing nappies and applying sun cream, staff were also heard praising a baby and clapping hands in response to a ball being rolled across the floor. The older children were more independent, using the toilet independently, washing their hands, fetching their own drinks of water in labelled bottles when outdoors and tidying up before going indoors. Stickers and star charts are used to reward positive behaviour. Encouraging children to be independent is good practice as it helps to develop skills and builds confidence.

The staff ensured that the children had access to drinks throughout the inspection. Age appropriate cups with handles were used in order to develop the children's co-ordination, drinking skills and encourage good hydration. Drinking plenty is good for children's physical well being and helps to keep them alert. Children experience warmth, attachment and belonging. We saw that the children were happy and confident to move

around the room and play together and happy to approach staff who knew each child well, even those children which had recently started at the nursery were comfortable and at ease in their surroundings, running around excitedly with smiles on their faces. The children received cuddles and praise and staff were seen to speak to them at their own level in a calm and caring tone. Parent questionnaires received contained positive comments about the happy atmosphere at the nursery and the confidence parents have in leaving their children with such approachable, warm staff. There were plenty of examples of the children's art work on the walls including drawings of the children's recent outing to a farm, individual star charts and birthday posters, these all helped the children to gain a sense of belonging and recognition which is good practice and enhances a child's wellbeing.

Quality of staffing

This inspection focussed on the quality of life for children at this nursery, CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the quality of staffing on this occasion as no concerns had been raised from the self assessment of service statement or parent and staff questionnaires returned. Observations on the day of the inspection were good. This theme will be considered at future inspections.

Quality of leadership and management

This inspection focussed on the quality of life for children at this nursery, CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the quality of leadership and management on this occasion as no concerns had been raised from the self assessment of service statement or parent and staff questionnaires returned. Observations on the day of the inspection were good. This theme will be considered at future inspections.

Quality of environment

This inspection focussed on the quality of life for children at this nursery, CSSIW did not consider it necessary to look at the quality of the environment on this occasion as no concerns had been raised from the self assessment of service statement or parent and staff questionnaires returned. Observations on the day of the inspection were good. This theme will be considered at future inspections.

How we inspect and report on services We conduct two types of inspection; baseline and focussed. Both consider the experience of people using services.

Baseline inspections assess whether the registration of a service is justified and whether the conditions of registration are appropriate. For most services, we carry out these inspections every three years. Exceptions are registered child minders, out of school care, sessional care, crèches and open access provision, which are every four years.

At these inspections we check whether the service has a clear, effective Statement of Purpose and whether the service delivers on the commitments set out in its Statement of Purpose. In assessing whether registration is justified inspectors check that the service can demonstrate a history of compliance with regulations.

Focussed inspections consider the experience of people using services and we will look at compliance with regulations when poor outcomes for people using services are identified. We carry out these inspections in between baseline inspections. Focussed inspections will always consider the quality of life of people using services and may look at other areas.

Baseline and focussed inspections may be scheduled or carried out in response to concerns.

Inspectors use a variety of methods to gather information during inspections. These may include;

- Talking with people who use services and their representatives
- Talking to staff and the manager
- Looking at documentation
- Observation of staff interactions with people and of the environment
- Comments made within questionnaires returned from people who use services, staff and health and social care professionals

We inspect and report our findings under 'Quality Themes'. Those relevant to each type of service are referred to within our inspection reports.

Further information about what we do can be found in our leaflet 'Improving Care and Social Services in Wales'. You can download this from our website, [Improving Care and Social Services in Wales](#) or ask us to send you a copy by telephoning your local CSSIW regional office.