

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

Ffordd Dyffryn Playgroup

Llandudno
LL30 2LZ

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Introduction

Ffordd Dyffryn Playgroup is based in a spacious classroom in Dyffryn Road School, within walking distance of Llandudno town centre, the beach and the park. The playgroup is registered to take twenty-four children from the age of two years until they attend full-time school. The sessions operate from 9:00 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. daily, Mondays – Fridays, in term-time only. The older children partake of a school lunch and remain at school for the afternoon nursery session. The language of the playgroup is English with Welsh encouraged whenever possible, through stories, songs, colours and counting. Outdoor play is a daily feature of the curriculum, weather permitting. The playgroup is affiliated to the 'Wales Pre-School Providers Association' (WPPA).

This was a scheduled, unannounced, baseline inspection.

Inspection methods

The inspection was undertaken after considering:

- The history and knowledge of the setting.

- The completed pre-inspection documentation returned to the CSSIW by the registered person.

- Two returned parent questionnaire responses.

- Discussion with the children and staff.

- Observation of the activities undertaken by the children and staff.

- Observation of the interaction between the children and staff members and the children themselves.

- Inspection of the premises.

Summary of inspection findings

What does the service do well?

The lively children were offered plenty of stimulating experiences to motivate them and ensure that they were happy and enjoyed their time at the playgroup.

The staff team are full of new ideas to enhance the playgroup provision. These are being encouraged and implemented in order to provide the best possible experiences for the children.

Funding has been procured for new toys and equipment which have been carefully chosen to offer additional learning opportunities and different concepts to explore.

Children are congratulated on their achievements and are encouraged to feel proud of what they have done.

It was pleasing to hear good manners encouraged and to observe the children following their leaders example: i.e. 'We do not say 'move,' we say excuse me please' and to watch the child copying and apologising to their friend.

It was pleasing to observe the children using their imaginations to the full and to watch them playing co-operatively with their friends, particularly in the home corner.

The two parent responses to the questionnaires issued by the CSSIW both state that their child is happy at the setting. Both also agree that they received an information pack about the service prior to their child starting. One parent stated that they would like more information about their child's progress through the year; an omission, which has been identified by the registered person and is being rectified and the other states that 'the staff seem very friendly and efficient'.

What has improved since the last inspection?

Since the last inspection the registered person and the staff team have worked hard through many difficulties to provide an exciting, user-friendly service for the children attending; offering them many new experiences and play opportunities. The group has changed rooms and has started to re-decorate, providing new flooring and a light, airy, play provision for the children. New toys, furniture and equipment have been provided. The committee and staff are working well with the school, funding providers and the umbrella organization for the children's benefit.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

The re-decoration of the room should be completed to brighten the room further as well as to freshen and cleanse. It should be ensured that the remaining equipment ordered is delivered and checked, to ensure it is not lost in transit over the long, summer holidays. Liquid soap, an individual bowl of water and an individual hand towel should be used for hand washing, particularly after the children have used the toilet, to avoid the risk of cross-contamination. Parents should be asked for advice and assistance when celebrating different cultural festivals. Additional storage would be useful to house outdoor toys and equipment.

Quality of life

The play group was in 'full swing' when the inspector arrived. The session had started with circle time on the mat, during which each child was given the opportunity to share his/her news, before the date, time and weather were discussed, together with the plans for the morning. The room was laid out into areas of learning and the children were encouraged to choose where they wanted to play. There were lots of different activities displayed and, it was pleasing to observe them helping themselves to others as the morning wore on. Shaving foam proved great fun and only mildly messy, allowing some very imaginative shapes to be drawn on the table. A painting easel had been set up nearby and the newly equipped home corner proved a popular draw, with prams and dolls as well as a cooker and washing machine and co-ordinated matching crockery and utensils. A pair of dressing up heeled shoes made an instant hit! At the far side of the room a game featuring cards depicted pictures of different coloured and sized animals, which had to be matched to a tray of different sized and coloured animals, which proved great fun and made the children concentrate. Building materials provided some high, wobbly towers and a cosy corner of cushions was laid out with a selection of Welsh and English books.

The staff members assisted the children as they played, moving from area to area, tying aprons and staying to play when invited, encouraging learning and new ideas. Even the inspector was offered a spoonful of one child's 'dinner'! The children chatted together happily with their friends as they played, fully absorbed in their activities and oblivious to everything else happening around them! One small group of boys decided to bring out a road track and managed to fix it together, winding it under the painting easel and round the foam table without disturbing either, so they could drive their cars without interruption. The staff did not interfere and the children succeeded brilliantly!

It was pleasing to observe Welsh captions used to describe the areas of learning around the room as well as numbers and important words and, to hear the staff using it incidentally with the children as well as in songs and stories. The children used and repeated it quite naturally. The 'seaside and community' theme and planning was displayed on the wall for parents and staff to read, together with the children's craft work and was reflected throughout the activities available as well as in the local trips undertaken.

The children were given due warning prior to clearing away for snack and assisted staff in putting toys away, almost without being asked; the room becoming a hive of activity! Stories and songs preceded the healthy snack, which included cheese spread on crackers and an excellent selection of segmented fresh fruit, which was hungrily enjoyed. Fresh water was available and offered throughout the morning, following good practice advice, with milk or juice at snack time. Outdoor play finished the session. The staff explained that during their room move the bikes had disappeared, but that they still had balls and hoops and the children enjoyed playing with the dolls and prams outside. It was nice to observe so much co-operative play with such young children.

Quality of staffing

Since the last inspection the staff team has changed considerably and the new members are working hard to build up a strong partnership with parents; working with them to provide for their children's needs. The registered person and the person in charge are both qualified in childcare, with the two volunteers hoping to start NVQ level 2 after the summer holidays. The staff members are all keen to attend as much training as they can, to enhance the provision and their understanding of the children. It will also offer the children continuity of care and a sense of identity and belonging. All have undertaken training in paediatric first aid. They share their experiences between themselves and use their knowledge of Welsh with the children. The sample of staff files examined during the inspection was in good order, with appropriate clearances in order. The registered person stated that supervision had been started and that an annual appraisal was currently being undertaken on all staff members.

Quality of leadership and management

Since the last inspection the registered person left at short notice and the current registered person agreed to fulfil the role and to work closely with the playgroup assistant, who in turn agreed to undertake the role of person in charge. Since then the group has progressed well and two volunteers have been recruited who work part-time in return for working towards an NVQ qualification. This arrangement has given the children continuity of care and an excellent child: staff ratio. The atmosphere in the playgroup is warm and lively and the staff members work well together as a team and have the full support of the school.

Record keeping is in good order and although the register ran out part way through this term, the registered person has devised a temporary register to record the children in and out of the setting. The registered person agreed to ensure that staff times of arrival and departure are also recorded. She stated that she is currently reading all the policies and procedures to ensure they are compatible with current legislation and will make the necessary alterations to the statement of purpose prior to the new intake of children in September. Children's development is being recorded and monitored and those not receiving the three year funding and the 'All About Me' books will have their development and achievements monitored and recorded every six months. These sheets will be sent home when completed.

Discussion arose about the need to complete an annual 'quality of care' review on the playgroup service, culminating in a report, which should be available for all parents to read. The registered person agreed to draw up questionnaires for parents, staff and for the children and to issue them immediately, so that the results can be collated prior to the end of term. She then stated that she would write the report, taking the views of the parents, staff and children into account, in readiness for the new term, when it should be issued to all parents and staff members.

Quality of environment

Since the last inspection the playgroup has changed rooms within the school. The new location is light and spacious and is being gradually refurbished for the children's use. The windows have been repaired and new flooring and a sink have been provided. The room is located close to appropriate toilets, enabling staff members to encourage the older children to be more independent. During the summer holidays the staff team are hoping to complete the redecoration of the room and to fit curtains to the windows, to make the ambience more homely. Children's work and photographs of them at play are displayed around the room at child height and it is lovely to observe them proudly identifying themselves and their work. Outside there is an enclosed child-friendly play area, with a pagoda, seating and colourful raised beds, planted by the school children. A road track is painted on the tarmac and a train has been made out of logs. In wet weather the hall is used for boisterous play.

All toys and equipment are accessible to the children and at child height. Health and safety is treated seriously with a risk assessment completed on the premises, which is checked daily. Security at the school is tight, with all doors being locked and children only being released to nominated carers. Fire drills are completed both independently and together with the school to remind the children of the procedure.

