

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**

Report Child Minding and Day Care

Mathern Day Nursery
Mathern
Chepstow
NP16 6JH

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Date of Visit: 22 November 2011

Mathern Nursery is registered to provide day care 45 children aged 0 to 8 years of age. The nursery is in a converted Victorian school building in Mathern village with an outdoor play area at the back of the building and access to a large playing field.

What does the service do well?

The baby room is a particularly homely environment.

The staff team is consistent and staff have a range of qualifications and experience.

Installation of AstroTurf in the outdoor area means that children can use the whole of the area regardless of the weather.

The provider works with CSSIW to achieve compliance with the regulatory framework.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no requirements identified at this inspection.

It was recommended that checks on sleeping babies are recorded and mobiles are removed from above cots.

Staff should ensure that equipment is of a suitable size for the children. It was noted that some of the equipment (easel and table and chairs) was too large for the younger children and staff should bear this in mind as it directly impacts on childrens access to the activities.

Quality of life

The children had access to a range of play and learning opportunities. These included art and craft, table top toys, and puzzles and outdoor play. There were structured adult led sessions for story times and singing but books were available to the children at all times and some children were seen to be choosing these independently and enjoying sitting and 'reading' these quietly. The baby room has a cosy feel with a gas fire and bright displays and the equipment enables children to begin to master their physical skills. The babies sleep upstairs and staff check them every 10 minutes and have a monitor in the downstairs base room.

The main playroom downstairs is multi functional being used as a 'messy play area for the younger children and as a dining room for some of the children. This means that activities are scheduled rather than children having spontaneous access throughout the day.

The preschool children are based upstairs so outdoor play is scheduled into the daily routine. As well as the play area at the back of the building the older children have access to a large field and all the children are taken for walks around the local area.

Observations evidenced some warm and nurturing interactions between staff and children. The nursery does not operate a key worker system. The groups are small and staff spoken to appeared to have a good understanding of individual needs of the children and said it was nursery practice to give verbal feedback to parents when they collected their children.

The staff spoken with said that they had renewed their core training of first aid and child protection and staff caring for pre-school children had attended foundation phase training modules.

The premises were seen to be clean and well maintained.

Inspection methods:

This inspection focused on the experience of people using the service and their quality of life. The method was chosen because the service has a good track record. This enabled the inspector to spend their time speaking to people and observing their care and their relationships with staff. Where concerns were indicated there was more detailed examination of records.

The focus of the inspection was on people using the service, not compliance with standards. This will be checked at future inspections.