

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

Rhostyllen Playgroup

Parish Hall
Vicarage Hill
Rhostyllen
LL14 4AR

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Introduction

Rhostyllen Pre-School Playgroup is registered with The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) to provide day care for thirty (30) children aged from 2 years and three months to four years. The service is situated in the main playroom in the Parish Hall in Rhostyllen village on the outskirts of Wrexham. The playgroup has sole use of the playroom. The remainder of the building is a multi use community centre. There is a large hall that can be utilised by the playgroup for the children to use physical activity toys and games.

The playgroup meets for three sessions per week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:15 to 11:40. There were twelve children on the register when the Self Assessment Statements were received by CSSIW. Seven children were present on the morning of the inspection.

Inspection methods

The visit took place on 5th November 2012 and was part of the scheduled baseline inspection process which included observations of the children's activities and experiences whilst attending the setting.

The information for this report was gathered from :

- Written information received from the provider in the detailed self assessment statement.

- Written documentation held in the playgroup files.

- A knowledge and history of the setting held by CSSIW.

- Information received from parents in five questionnaires returned to CSSIW.

- Information received from staff in two questionnaires received.

- Talking to the children and staff present.

Summary of inspection findings

What does the service do well?

Children and parents experience an improving service which they can rely on. The staff have been keen to attend training programmes to enhance the quality of the care and learning provided in the playgroup.

The paperwork for this setting is well kept and easily accessible in suitable files.

Outdoor play has been extended to encourage the children to exercise and learn about how plants grow.

What has improved since the last inspection?

The outside play area attached to the Parish Hall was fully utilized and offered a safe space to explore and exercise and to extend the children's experiences and knowledge of growing vegetables. There were areas for water play, mark making, construction and finding out. The children had also visited the nearby local play park where there was a variety of good quality, well serviced play equipment.

New sports equipment had been purchased to improve the quality of outdoor and

indoor games.

The staff have had access to training via the Early Education Team and the Family Information Service in areas of Healthy Eating, Food Safety, Outdoor Activities, Welsh for Young Children and Managing Behaviour.

Dental hygiene was promoted with the "Design to Smile" campaign so that the children learn about the importance of brushing their teeth.

Details about the playgroup and previous inspection reports were accessible from the group's own website.

What needs to be done to improve the service?

There were no issues of non compliance to report.

The Quality Assurance process had begun and the information gathered in the recent parent review could be analysed and put into a report format and fed back to parents.

This would form the basis of a quality review for the playgroup.

Quality of life

Overall, we, (CSSIW), found that the needs of the children were at the centre of the service. Children were spoken to gently and benefitted from a respectful and warm approach. The children placed a disk with their photograph onto a board when they arrived as part of their registration process. They sat quietly on the carpet until each child had answered to their name that they were present, encouraging listening skills and taking turns.

The playroom was organised into areas of learning specified by the Foundation Phase for children's learning in Wales. The group was a linked partner with Wrexham Early Education Team and was a member of Wales Pre-school Playgroup Association (WPPA)

There were two permanent members of staff; both hold a level 3 qualification. Deborah Roberts is a Registered Person and the Person in Charge.

The main language of the group was English but the children were encouraged to learn and respond in Welsh at register and when singing and listening to stories.

Two children were chosen as the day's helpers for when snack was served. These children either helped to pour milk or water from little jugs into small beakers for the rest of the children or they gave a jug to a child to pour their own drink encouraging independence and doing things for themselves. The healthy eating snack menu was displayed on the wall for the current week promoting healthy nutrition and hydration.

The children appeared to be confident, happy and secure and were comfortable with the staff and their environment. They were given choices and opportunities to be active and to be positively occupied with the wide variety of activities prepared for them.

Imaginative play was observed in the home corner and there was free access to soft toys, books, sand play and construction toys. The children had the choice to make cardboard rockets and fireworks for bonfire night. The wall displays included flags from different countries of the world and there were collages of woodland animals and a spider's web. Above the home corner/ restaurant, there were pictures of Italian, Chinese, and Indian meals with photos of fruit and vegetables. The children's work promoted recognition skills as well as reinforcing a sense of identity in addition to making the room welcoming, stimulating and attractive.

Most of the children were new to the playgroup in September and the inspection took place on the first morning back after half term. It was observed that they had remembered the routines and responded to open questions. The Welsh language was introduced in the form of simple questions, greetings and responses where ever possible. The children listened to and followed instructions and were busy enjoying the experience of playing with the choice of toys and equipment.

Parents could be confident that their children had their needs and preferences identified during the settling in period and there after whilst attending the setting. This is because great care is taken to prepare both parents and children in advance of attending Rhostyllen Playgroup. Individual needs were taken into consideration with each child and family and parents were kept fully informed about their child's well being, achievements and progress and how their needs were met on a daily basis through good communication and engagement.

Quality of staffing

There are two permanent members of staff who started their careers in the playgroup from being parent helpers/volunteers. Children and parents benefit from continuity of care from a stable staff team who know the children and the families' needs and expectations. Deborah Roberts has been employed now for eight years and Jane Smith for four years. Deborah Roberts has just applied to renew her Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Clearance (CRB) and Jane Smith has completed the necessary application to become a Registered Person for the group to replace two former Registered Persons who have recently resigned.

The staff meet on a two weekly basis to plan and review the activities that have been set up and to introduce new themes. Christmas planning was already well under way, with new songs being learned and decorations being made. The children benefit from being cared for by motivated staff both of whom have an impressive log of studies and courses undertaken since the last inspection.

Five parent questionnaires returned to CSSIW were complimentary about the service and the staff. Comments were made about emergent language skills and improved independence. Happiness was a theme continually remarked on by parents along with kind remarks about the staff. "It's a lovely place and my child is really happy there. She has developed in terms of language and imagination since attending"

Quality of leadership and management

The Statement of Purpose and all the written policies and procedures were detailed and clear. Parents had a good overview of the service from the contents of the information available from the group or on-line.

The staff understand the importance of being approachable to parents and carers and that their comments and suggestions are taken seriously. Good communication was observed when the children arrived with the exchange of information between parents, grandparents, carers and the staff after a period of one week half term holiday.

Playgroup policies and procedures were under constant review and were re-dated when changes were made. Staff were confident and stated that they strive to meet suggestions made by partner organisations, Early Education and CSSIW.

Quality of environment

The children's wellbeing was promoted because the staff and committee had made improvements to the environment since the last inspection. Adaptations to the room layout had been made with advice and training from the Early Education advisors and through staff putting into practise their extensive training and learning this year. The building security was adequate to promote a secure environment for safe play.

New equipment has been acquired for indoors and outdoors. Sports equipment suitable for young children had been purchased with a link to the Olympics 2012. The parents using this service could be satisfied that their children are safe and secure. Great care was taken with security of the building and volunteer parents were used when the children go out on walks.

Parents can be confident that personal information about their child was securely kept. The filing of documents was found to be satisfactory; only accessible by the senior supervisor.