



## Inspection Report

**Coed Cariad**

**Blaen Y Wern  
Kidwelly  
SA17 5ES**

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This report is also available in Welsh**



**Date Inspection Completed**

15/11/2022

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## About Coed Cariad

Type of care provided	Children's Day Care Full Day Care
Registered Provider	GWENDRAETH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Registered places	16
Language of the service	English and Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is a post-registration inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u><a href="#">Well-being</a></u>	<b>Good</b>
<u><a href="#">Care and Development</a></u>	<b>Good</b>
<u><a href="#">Environment</a></u>	<b>Adequate</b>
<u><a href="#">Leadership and Management</a></u>	<b>Adequate</b>

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

## **Summary**

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They feel close to staff and confidently approach them for comfort and support. Children's voice is strong, and they feel confident telling staff what they want to do. Children's interactions are good. They enjoy their play and exploration experiences indoors and outdoors. Children's independence skills are developing well.

Staff are developing and implementing many policies and procedures to promote children's healthy lifestyles and physical activities. They engage in children's interests and respond to their needs appropriately. Staff are experienced and have a good understanding of child development. They promote and encourage children to explore, be curious and become independent learners in a forest environment.

People running the setting ensure there is an appropriate range of resources available for all ages and developmental needs of children. They have adequate measures in place to ensure that everyone is aware of their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. However, there are recommendations made to further develop the safety of the environment. The setting is situated in a natural woodland area with plenty of play space for children to play, learn and explore.

People who run the setting have an adequate understanding about their regulatory requirements. They have a good vision for the future of the setting. However, there are some areas for improvement in relation to staff recruitment, provision of information and staff appraisals, which will be tested at the next inspection of the setting. Partnerships are good.

Most children feel happy and settled at the setting. They feel close to staff and confidently approach them for comfort and support during free play. Children show good self-esteem and are proud of their achievements. They smiled as they admired their large model of a castle with wooden blocks. Children smile when they receive praise from staff for building a tall tower and feel their efforts are being appreciated when they clean up after themselves.

Children's voice is strong. Children feel confident that they can initiate their own play. They choose their play according to their interests, which include outdoor play, construction play and craft experiences. Children's ideas are listened to and acted upon. They have planning meetings which include children's ideas such as Halloween activities. Children confidently express their feelings. They choose where they want to sit at mealtimes and those that are not ready to eat with others are respected to eat separately.

Children's interactions are good. They interact positively with staff; discussing their family trips and their construction play with staff. Children cooperate well. They share their construction resources nicely and share ideas with their peers. For example, children told each other *"Look at this! This is a base! This could be a home; they have homes like these in America with palm trees!"* Children confidently come to staff for support when others are being unkind. Children listen to staff who encourage them to be kind.

Children enjoy their play and exploration experiences both indoors and outdoors. They thoroughly enjoy their painting activity and explain that they have sourced clay from outdoors. They make their own clay models of hedgehogs, pots and faces, and proudly painted their finished products. Children enjoy their free exploration time in the woodland areas. They enjoy swinging on the outdoor tree swings and younger children enjoyed creating little streams with water and stones. They have previously made steps for the banks in the woodland area. Children engage in their learning activities. They listen attentively during story time and re-create the stories independently with natural, autumnal resources and animal toys with enthusiasm. They use good vocabulary and sentence patterns.

Children's independence skills are developing well. They listen to staff who encourage them to wash their hands before lunch and help themselves to snack at any time during the day. Children independently access pencils and craft resources as well as outdoor play resources whilst playing with the water and mud kitchen areas. Children are confident in making choices indoors and outdoors and access all safe play resources independently.

## Care and Development

Good

Staff are developing and implementing many policies and procedures to promote children's healthy lifestyles and physical activities. They encourage children to wash their hands before lunchtime. However, children have access to their lunchboxes at all times, and are not encouraged to wash their hands after playing outdoors. Staff ensure tables are sanitised before lunch. Staff have an awareness of children's medical needs and keep records of children's medication requirements. Most staff have received up to date food hygiene training, safeguarding training and hold current paediatric first aid certificates. Staff understand their responsibilities to protect children. They confidently responded to potential child protection scenarios and the procedures they need to follow if there were any concerns about the well-being of children in their care. Staff record incidents and accidents with signatures of staff and most parents. However, signatures are not always obtained from parents, and pre-existing injuries of children are not recorded. Parents supply healthy food and drinks for children's mealtimes.

Staff engage in children's interests and respond to their needs appropriately. They interact positively, respectfully and kindly when children are unwell. Staff respond sensitively when children cuddle them. They are good role models as they encourage children to be polite, showing good manners towards children and thanking them for tidying their toys and resources away. Staff develop children's self-esteem well. They praise children for creating a tall tower saying "*Wow! That tower is amazing!!*" Staff encourage children to be kind when there are unwanted behaviours and know the needs of the children well.

Staff are experienced and have a good understanding of child development. They create progress reports which show children's progression and next steps in all areas of the curriculum and set suitable targets for them from their baseline assessment to their individual learning outcomes. They promote language development through small world play, story time and reading stories to children on request. Staff mainly follow a free choice learning environment where children follow their interests. They promote and encourage children to explore, be curious and become independent learners in a forest environment. They successfully create a suitable number of activities and opportunities for children to develop their curiosity, creative skills and independence skills. They promote knowledge of different cultures and diversity including the Welsh dimension. Some staff encourage Welsh language by interacting with children using the Welsh language and therefore their language choices are respected.

**Environment****Adequate**

People who run the setting have adequate measures in place to ensure that everyone is aware of their responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. The environment is mainly safe and secure. There is an entrance gate to the setting which is closed at all times and the boundary is closed in by the natural growth of the forest areas. The setting's welcome shelter is always to ensure play is accessible indoors and outdoors at all times. People who run the setting confirm that this area is cleaned out daily. There is a record of people who visit the setting, however there is no record of parents and volunteers who visit the setting. People who run the setting keep records of regular fire drills. Risk assessments are in place which are implemented in practice. Daily risk assessments are carried out every morning to ensure environmental safety. However, shallow pond areas are in need of extra risk assessment procedures to ensure the safety of children. People who run the setting ensure staff can easily access full first aid kits in the indoor and outdoor areas and any hazardous substances are kept out of the reach of children. People who run the setting ensure that lunchboxes are equipped with ice boxes during the summer months and careful choice of foods are selected; this is to ensure they are safe to be eaten without refrigeration. During the inspection, people who run the service informed Care Inspectorate Wales that the round house located in the main forest area was not currently in use. Those running the setting ensured suitable supervision of children in the courtyard, welcome shelter and main forestry areas. However, those running the setting had not ensured that all concealed outdoor areas were supervised by staff.

The setting is situated in a natural woodland area with plenty of play space for children to play, learn and explore. The outdoor play space has an area where children and adults may use a composting toilet facility, with water and liquid soap for sanitisation. Those running the setting encourage children to bring separate towels from home to dry their hands. Children's privacy and dignity are respected at all times. There is natural water drinking facility outdoors which is currently not tested for bacteria. The welcome shelter is a dry space where children can eat, rest and relax on soft cushions. There are tables for dining and enjoying a choice of craft and creative activities. A kindness tree is displayed indoors, which celebrates children's abilities and kindness and gives children a good sense of belonging and promotes children's self-esteem. These comments include 'He shared with us' and 'She was very kind sharing her bike.' The log burner has a suitable guard and maintenance checks are completed in a timely manner.

People who run the setting ensure there is an appropriate range of resources available for children's ages and developmental needs. Within the indoor welcome shelter, resources include a range of construction toys, small world play, reading books and a good choice of resources which enhance children's creativity skills, which include natural resources found in the outdoor areas and magnifying resources for exploration and curiosity. There is a wealth of opportunities in the outdoor areas for children to develop their physical, independence and exploration skills. There are a range of loose parts, real life pots, pans, digging and planting resources where children have grown vegetables, fruits and herbs. The resources are adequately cleaned once a week. There are no sharp objects for cutting

and sawing freely available for children; leaders told us that they are kept away from children and used under the supervision of staff only.



## Leadership and Management

Adequate

People who run the service have a compliant statement of purpose which has been updated during the course of the inspection to reflect the changes to the setting. Those running the setting have a good vision for the setting and have good relationships with staff and a core group of volunteers. The setting's policies, procedures and operational plan has been updated during the course of inspection to reflect current staffing arrangements. People who run the setting keep records in relation to children's contracts, permissions and individual needs. There is current public liability insurance in place.

People who run the setting have enhanced their attendance records during the course of inspection to show detailed times and dates that staff and children are present at the setting therefore all attendance records are now compliant with regulation. Staff to child ratios were met during the inspection of the setting.

People who run the setting manage their staff appropriately day to day. Those running the setting ensure all staff know their responsibilities in relation to caring for children. They complete an induction where staff read all policies and procedures relating to the setting. Staff are very happy at the setting and feel fully supported to gain training and guidance by those running the setting. There is a good positive working ethos between the staff and those who run the setting. People running the setting ensure all staff are fully qualified and experienced childcare practitioners. People running the setting ensure staff have verbal supervisions, however they do not ensure that staff receive annual appraisals which is an area for improvement for the setting. We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up in the next inspection of the setting.

People running the setting undertake recruitment checks for some staff members and all disclosure and barring checks are completed. However, those running the setting had not ensured all recruitment checks were complete for staff as references, employment history, medical declaration of health and job description had not been completed prior to their employment. This is an area for improvement for the setting. We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up in the next inspection of the setting.

People running the setting have completed the Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS). They have completed the quality of care report for the setting and include views of children, parents, staff and volunteers in their report to further improve targets for the setting. People who run the setting keep Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) informed about changes to the setting. However, they have not informed CIW of a significant event. This is an area for improvement for the setting. We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up in the next inspection of the setting.

Partnerships with parents are good. Most parents feel that their children are happy and almost all parents feel that children's experiences at Coed Cariad is valuable and build their confidence in order for their children to socialise, explore, experiment and play in a natural and safe environment. A few parents felt that there were social issues when children were not observed by staff. Overall, parents feel that the staff are insightful and feel that the atmosphere is warm and caring. Partnerships with Coed Cariad's local community links and

core group are strong. They ensure the local community are involved with developing projects for the woodland areas and they visit the Botanic Gardens regularly. Those running the setting engage with parents verbally on a day to day basis, they message and share pictures with parents through social media webform and share their policies and procedures on their website.

## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1. Ensure there are records of pre-existing injuries to children and parent's signatures are obtained for accidents and incidents

R2. Ensure staff encourage children to wash their hands before eating at all times and drinking water is tested for any potential bacteria.

R3. Ensure there is a clear record of all those visiting the setting

R4. Ensure people running the setting organise staffing to ensure that all outdoor play spaces are supervised by staff.

R5. Ensure there are further risk assessments for pond areas and streams and measures are put in place to ensure the safety of children at all times.

### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	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.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	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
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31	The Responsible Individual had not informed Care Inspectorate Wales of a significant event at the setting.	New
28	The registered individual has not ensured that all suitability checks are made on some individual staff.	New
29	The registered individual has not conducted annual appraisals for staff working at the setting.	New

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