

Group Discussion.

Day care setting with 20 children

As the preschool leader in this day care setting, we aim to provide a high-quality early year's education by providing an environment that children have engaging experiences and different play opportunities in that support each child's holistic development needs, well-being and give the children the skills and knowledge needed for lifelong learning (Welsh Government, 2024).

Following up from the last joint inspection in 2023 from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Estyn the recommendations were of making effective use of observations to identify opportunities to extend children's learning

we have worked closely with the foundation phase advisory teacher that all local authorities provide training to funded non-maintained early years settings for practitioners and supports the early years setting to improve the quality of education in the setting (Estyn,2015).

To improve on this recommendation training and support was given to all practitioners however, due to high turnover of staff in the last year this recommendation needs to be re addressed and practitioners need to have more training and support to ensure that all children are extended in their learning.

As is highlighted standard 7.9 in the minimum standards for Wales (NMS) observing children needs to be recorded to help plan the next step of learning (Welsh Government ,2023).

In addition to this the curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery setting states that each early years setting need to make sure that observation is recorded in a concise and manageable way that works for the setting and that observations should be the tool to plan future learning experiences and environments.

It also highlights that carrying out observations that are analysed in-depth is the way practitioner can assure children holistic development and support and challenged accordingly (Welsh Government ,2022).

The setting needs to state in the Care and development section of the self –assessment of service statement (SASS) that we have taken measures to address this recommendation and are following these steps to improve the quality of care and education of our setting.

Staff training will be taking place at the end of April, and we will have continuing ongoing support of the advisory teacher.

Every early years setting has an annual legal requirement to complete SASS form for CIW so they can prepare for inspection and early years setting that need it the most are prioritised (Play Wales ,2025).

As is stated in section 16 of The Child Minding and Day care (Wales) Regulations 2010 the quality of care given to children needs to be reviewed regularly and include the views of children and their parents and the practitioners in the early year setting (Legislation,2011). Following the

feedback from some parents that had filled in the questionnaire. This feedback was very positive here are some of the parent's comments:

'The setting is a home from home'

'The early years setting allows my child to have their own voice, choice and responsibility.

'The practitioners have so much care to give'

'It is great how the children are out in all weathers and that the setting has many play experiences that meet my child interests and needs'

'Transition from nursery room to preschool is done well for both the child and the parents.

However, a few parents want better communication about their child's day and to know where they are at in their development.

Sharing this information with parents could be done by using the Seesaw app.

Where practitioners can share their child's learning journey through observations, the child's achievements, progressing to the next step of learning.

As is highlighted in Standard 6 of the NSM, working in partnership with parents is good practice.

Information should be provided regularly to parents about children's learning experience. This could be done through photographs or displaying of children's work (Welsh Government,2023).

In addition, the Department of Education proposes that sharing information about children's observations with parents includes and involves them in their child's learning (Department of education ,2024). All this feedback will be put into the quality care report and each section for the SASS form for CIW ready for the inspection. Focusing on these areas and reflection on our practice will help us in the setting to provide a high-quality provision.

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