



How we created a Welsh dimension in our role play area. Gofal Plant Gogerddan Childcare.

Gofal Plant Gogerddan Child Care is a purpose built nursery set in a rural location just outside the town of Aberystwyth. The nursery is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales for 54 places and has a team of experienced staff. Children can attend from birth to five years of age, and they also offer an after-school club from another site. The nursery is an approved Flying Start provider, a provider of the 30 hours Childcare Offer and is registered for tax free childcare. This makes the service they provide accessible to all.

What we hoped to achieve:

Our nursery joined the Welsh Promise in November 2023 and received our Bronze award in February 2024. We joined to support us in working toward the Active Offer and would like to achieve official recognition for being a bilingual setting. We include the Welsh language in everything that we do and there is a wonderful Welsh ethos that runs throughout the setting. Not every member of our amazing team of staff is a fluent Welsh speaker, but they all use incidental Welsh with the children and their language development is something we support and strongly encourage. We worked with the Welsh Language team at NDNA and knew the importance of incorporating a Welsh dimension into our engaging experiences and invitations to play.

The children are in groups within the setting and each group has a consistent team of staff to ensure positive nurturing relationships and bonds are formed. Four of these groups are based in the main building. The fifth group are outside in a cabin as their base and out and about in the woodlands which spread above the nursery on the hillside. Visits into the local community are a really important part of the experience we like to offer here at Gogerddan and our trip to the café was one of these visits.



What impact did this invitation to play have and how did it positively affect the children?

The child-led nature of this area provided so many opportunities for the children. Children chose whether they wanted an active role whilst playing in this area independently. Some played individually whilst others worked cooperatively. Communication skills were used constantly, and all the children showed a great deal of pride in their café produce.

Staff were able to model some sentences and words that the children used a great deal in their play. Using their visit to the café as inspiration for this idea meant that the children were able to recreate what they had seen first-hand. They experienced how the language, history and culture of Wales is embodied in society today and how we and they can be part of keeping that alive.



How do we intend to use this learning to continue to improve experiences for our children?

We are continuing with our community links bringing a Welsh dimension into the wealth of opportunities that we offer. We recently featured in a Welsh Community magazine in an article about the visits that we make to a local Welsh craft group in the village. The members of the group have been knitting dolls clothes for the children in the nursery and so the children visit for a chat when they collect them.

We hope to arrange more Welsh visitors to the setting moving forward and we will continue to encourage our staff to speak Welsh. We actively promote the Camau Learn Welsh course and other Welsh language training.

Case study: Gofal Plant Gogerddan Childcare: How we created a Welsh dimension in our role play area. V01. October 2024.

Further support / Cefnogaeth pellach:

For more activities and resources, take a look at our free weekly myNDNA activities and tips.

- For activities and tips join myNDNA <https://ndna.org.uk/join-us/>
- NDNA Cymru factsheets <https://ndna.org.uk/product-category/wales-early-years-factsheets/>