



Our childcare environment is a Bilingual setting providing our curriculum through the medium of Welsh as well as English. Welsh has always been an important part of our practice as we aim to provide children with as much understanding of the Welsh language before they start school.

On entering our setting daily, children use the self-registration board. They do this by answering 'Cwestiwn y Dydd'. For example, 'Ydych chi'n teimlo hapus?' 'Ydw', 'Nac ydw.' This allows us to introduce simple questions, that children can respond to.

The staff use Welsh language action songs daily for children to move to. This provides a Welsh ethos and encourages a greater understanding and familiarity of vocabulary introduced. We regularly read stories to the children in Welsh, including stories about Welsh Culture and folk tales.

Children take responsibility for leading the daily routine 'amser cofrestru' in their role as 'Helpwr y Dydd'. They take great pride in this responsibility and due to the daily repetition of vocabulary and phrases their understanding and confidence in speaking Welsh develops quickly. As children's Welsh language develops, staff increase the vocabulary and language phrases introduced. During 'amser cylch' children are divided into two differentiated groups according to age and this provides an opportunity for staff to introduce very simple phrases to children at an early age before progressing to longer or more phrases within the older group.

We have Welsh resources and activities which are implemented in our setting. Some examples of these are: 'Joio Dan Pump', 'Caru Curiad' and learning colours, shapes, body parts and using our communication board.

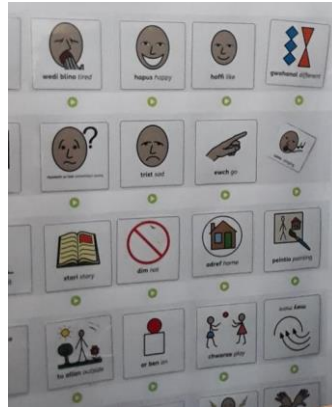
From an early age, our children use daily phrases such as 'Enw pwy yw hwn?', 'Amser cyfri' and 'Sut mae'r tywydd heddiw'. We have many Welsh songs including our 'Bore da', 'dyddiau'r wythnos' and 'Hwyl nawr ffrindiau' songs. We have visual signs and resources, all display boards, planning and resources are bilingual. We use daily phrases for routines. These are 'Amser chwarae', 'Amser Tacluso', 'Golchi Dwylo' and 'Dewch i eistedd ar y mat'.

We provide termly themes to engage children in learning different topics and encourage their development. Due to half of our staff being Welsh speakers, we had the habit of relying on them to ask for words if we were unsure of something. Therefore, learning Welsh or updating the skills we already had was important for all staff. We hope in the future that all Playgroup staff will be able to communicate with children, their parents/guardians and other professionals bilingually.

We work with many professionals who support our setting. During the reception teacher's transition visits to the setting, staff discuss vocabulary and phrases used in the reception class daily routines and amend to support children's progression and aid smooth transition to school.

The Camau project was recommended to us to support our childcare environment itself, to support the curriculum and learning we provide and to enhance staff's Welsh Development and skills. Some of our staff have children themselves who learn through Welsh so this has also been beneficial for their personal circumstances. The Camau project has provided us with free Welsh courses to develop our vocabulary and give us more knowledge of what we can use within our preschool setting.

Picture 1: Welsh Celebrations: St David's Day, Owain Glyndwr Day, Shwmae day. Urdd and Jac y do/Sali Mali. Picture 2: Our Bilingual communication board for children to express and communicate their needs.



Due to circumstances, the project has moved to online learning rather than face to face learning. This has advantages and disadvantages and can work for some, but not others.

As a team, we have enjoyed the aspect of online learning. Learning online at your own pace is a lot easier, meaning we can do it in our own time and fit it in around our other commitments. Several members of our team have their own children, so being able to participate in online learning has proven successful for them as they can work it around their home life. The Camau course itself is very explanatory and for the staff who have completed this, we feel we have learnt so much in a short space of time. The course is set out in an easy-to-understand format and each unit has helpful, printable resources, tasks and activities to aid learning.

The negative side of online learning can be you're missing the opportunity to gain confidence with conversation. Even though, we are missing practice of speaking with other Welsh learners. We are gaining our own experience by communicating and practicing in our own environment with the children, their parents and our fellow staff members.

Some of our staff have completed the Entry 1 Camau course and we believe it has influenced our practice. Since completing the course, we have been using more Welsh with the children, we have more knowledge and are becoming more confident in speaking Welsh. Two of our staff have enrolled onto the next level and aim to continue with this learning. The aim in our setting is to use more Welsh with the children and to feel more comfortable and confident in using the Welsh Language.

Overall, the Camau project is proving to be a very successful tool to influence our practice and support our own personal development.