



Inspection Report

Dareth Gruneberg

Treharris



Date Inspection Completed

19/01/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	19/2/20 Post registration inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh Language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of children who use, or intend to use the service. We recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh Language in social care.'

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic, therefore we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are generally happy and settled, and make decisions for themselves. They enjoy the activities provided and learn new skills whilst having fun. They interact well with other children and good relationships have been formed because their child minder has a good knowledge of child development. She understands the individual needs of children in her care and engages positively with them providing interesting and age appropriate experiences.

The child-minding environment is suitable and maintained satisfactorily. There is space for children to play and explore within the home, although there is no outdoor play area.

The service shows some improvement since the previous inspection, with confirmation of details from the child minder of those persons she uses for emergency backup. The child minder also uses an online record keeping and communications application to keep parents updated. She also evaluates children's developmental progress using this application and provides daily information with photographs.

All parents we contacted spoke positively about the service. They thought the child minder had adapted her service well to operate during the Covid-19 pandemic and they were grateful. They all mentioned how good the child minder was, her pleasant manner with children and the way in which she cares for children as individuals, and brings on their learning.

Well-being

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered all of this theme, therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Children make choices for themselves and are confident to express their wishes. They chose where to play as they are comfortable and familiar with their surroundings, and can find the toys they want easily and independently. They can agree or disagree to take part in activities the child minder suggests.

Children have good relationships with the child minder and each other, which means they are happy and settled for most of the time. They interact nicely, share toys and chat amongst themselves pleasantly. They have fun, with their child minder who knows them well, as she provides comfort and tickles when needed, which involves them and lightens their mood.

Children have plenty of toys, which interest them and keep them busy. They approach the child minder often to involve her in their play. They respond well when asked questions to distract them such as “Are you going to do some of these puzzles with us?” “Come and do one for me” and “see if you can match them up”. When told directly not to climb on the furniture, “No climbing, get down please”, the children listened straight away, showing respect.

Children enjoy their play and learning and have opportunities to learn new skills. They are encouraged to answer questions during their play. This reinforces their knowledge of colours and numbers and promotes their understanding of new words. Children are pleased when they were praised for finding things such as an orange butterfly. They can concentrate well when playing educational games and are encouraged to think for themselves initially although they are also prompted with leading questions such as “Can you find the hat for me?” A child clapped happily when they knew they had completed a task well and received the praise they deserved, “Good boy!” which helped to further develop the child’s self-esteem.

Children’s independence skills are encouraged. They use different types of drinking beakers, cups and straws to practice their drinking skills and some children can put on an all in one suit, on their own, even doing the zip.

Care and Development

The child minder has appropriate infection control measures in place to ensure the safety of those at the service. Hand sanitisers are available and risk assessments confirmed the safety of the environment. Essential cleaning is carried out during the evenings and on days the child minder is free to do so. She consistently encourages children to wash their hands.

Children's specific dietary needs are considered and she promotes healthy eating and exercise. Parents provide lunch boxes or children can have a light lunch and an early cooked evening meal with the child minder. One parent told us their child now eats well, having tried new fruits and eating foods, they see other children having. Outdoor play in parks and regular walks in the countryside are regular activities to ensure children have plenty of exercise and fresh air.

The child minder gets to know children well and anticipates what they may need as individuals. She speaks to children respectfully and has many years' experience of working as a nurse and with children and adults with additional needs. The child minder has completed a 'Positive Parenting Course' and is proud of the progress made with individuals. One parent told us, "she is amazing with my child". Another said the child minder anticipates her child's behaviours before they happen and intervenes appropriately, her child has "never come home and said they are not happy about anything, so the way she deals with them and the way they interact, I am perfectly happy about".

The child minder successfully encourages children to do things for themselves. When doing puzzles, the child minder lays the pieces out and prompts the children to do them by themselves, learning at times through trial and error and boosting their self-esteem. Parents also approved of the child minder being outdoors a lot. On walks, they look for natural materials for craft, and parents understand why children cannot attend their usual toddler and playgroups now. The child minder told us some children have found this difficult so she has involved herself in the Duchess of Cambridge programme 'Every Child Matters' which operates to support children through these times. On a day to day basis, the child minder keeps to routines and ensures she finds time to speak to parents and the children about these matters. Parents told us they are pleased with the developmental feedback they are receiving via the application used, and how the child minder finds something in common with all the children.

Environment

'As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full'

The child minder ensures the safety of the environment in which the children play, and is aware of how to transport children safely in the family car. All areas in which child minding takes place are maintained appropriately. Toys and equipment are checked and cleaned most evenings. Furniture being used is age appropriate, with child size table and chairs and booster seats being used for toddlers.

The child minder does not currently use her garden for outdoor play because of the risks associated with this area. She plans to remedy the situation before summer 2022 as she has been unable to complete work in the garden this year. She currently uses suitable play areas nearby and the countryside for outdoor activities, which parents confirmed their children have really enjoyed.

We were unable to follow up previous recommendations in relation to outstanding issues with the premises, including risk assessments for all areas used.

Leadership and Management

'As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full'

This service is managed satisfactorily. The child minder has updated her statement of purpose and has policies and procedures that reflect the current service she offers. The child minder admitted to finding some days more difficult than others, because of the number of children attending the service. The main difficulty she has encountered has been managing a larger group and transporting all of the children, at the same time. She is registered to care for no more than six children at any one time; we have recommended she must carefully consider the impact on the service when taking on new registrations. The child minder has confirmed she has emergency backup child minders and does not use child-minding assistants although family members are sometimes present within the home when child minding takes place. All persons over 16 years and living in the family home, have satisfactory disclosure and barring service certificates. The child minder has three pet dogs and a cat. Two parents confirmed their children love the pets and they have received additional documentation explaining how pets are managed during child-minding hours.

The child minder is aware of the need to complete work in her garden to provide an appropriate outdoor play space for children and is considering another parking space at the front of her property.

The child minder makes every effort to have a good relationship with parents and keep them informed. Social media applications are used to communicate with parents, especially during the pandemic, as there is less opportunity to have face to face conversations. We contacted five parents who individually told us they are "more than happy" with the child minder, their children have made progress, settled well and we have noticed a difference in them. They say "she's made a big difference in my child's life and has given us reassurance, especially with all that's going on in the world. I honestly can't imagine sending them anywhere else now". Parents also confirmed the child minder is very open in terms of communication but very considerate of their wishes too. She works closely with them to ensure their preferences are considered.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Complete work on the garden to provide a suitable outdoor play area for children on the child minding premises.

R2 Consider the impact there may be on children and the child minder, from the number of children cared for and transported during the child minding day.

R3 The child minder must manage her child minding service appropriately and ensure the behaviours and attitudes of adults on the premises do not impact on the well-being of children.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

The registered person has failed to promote and make proper provision for the care and supervision of minded children

Regulation 20 (1) (b)

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None

Areas where priority action is required

None

Areas where improvement is required

None

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