



# Inspection Report

**Nicola Simpson**

**Porth**



**Date Inspection Completed**

26/05/2021

**Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2021.**

*You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)*  
*You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.*

## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	7
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	24 November 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people/children who use, or intend to use the service.

## **Summary**

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

Children are happy and settled at the service. They are able to make choices and decisions about their play and have opportunities to become independent and develop new skills. They have warm and supportive relationships and have positive bonds with the child minder. They enjoy the play and learning opportunities available and activities are age appropriate and suitably challenging.

The child minder understands how to keep children safe and healthy. She manages interactions in a positive way to support children's behaviour and play. She plans appropriate activities for children in her care, identifies their progress and plans for their development.

The home is welcoming and appropriately maintained with a suitable range of resources available to children, both inside and outdoors. There is enough space for children to explore their environment safely and toys and equipment is accessible to children, promoting their independence.

The child minder manages her service appropriately. There are policies to support her service and these are shared with parents. She reviews her service to plan for improvements and ensures that her training is up to date. Parents appreciate the service she provides and the child minder maintains regular communication with parents who use her service.

## Well-being

Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about their play. They are confident to speak out and say what snacks they like and what resources they want to play with. Children are confident moving around the home, selecting toys and choosing activities, with support from the child minder.

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They know their way around the home and are confident moving between the indoor and outdoor areas. Children are at ease in the child minder's company as they have strong relationships.

Children are beginning to communicate their likes and dislikes and speak openly to the child minder about what they like and wish to do. This helps children feel comfortable and settled at the setting. Children enjoy chatting to the child minder, and they are confident to try new tasks, for which they receive praise and encouragement, which in turn, supports their confidence and self-esteem.

Children enjoy their play and the opportunities to develop and learn new skills. They show enjoyment and pleasure in playing alone, but also value the child minders involvement in activities. They have opportunities to develop their all –round development, including play to develop their hand/eye co-ordination and mathematical understanding. We saw children were quick to respond to the child minders questions, and showed interest, enjoyment and curiosity in their play. They ate their snack independently and enjoyed using pens and selecting different coloured resources.

Children have opportunities to develop their independence and skills in line with their age and stage of development. Because of the routine and variety of play opportunities on offer, children are regularly able to develop understanding of colours, numbers and self-help skills, including washing their hands and eating independently at snack time.

## Care and Development

The child minder has appropriate procedures to keep children safe. She implements suitable measures to reduce risks associated with the Covid- 19 pandemic and has a written policy on this. Cleaning of the home and resources is more frequent, but currently the child minder does not record when this takes place. There are risk assessments for the service, covering areas such as activities, the premises and school runs. However, not all risks have been minimised in the bathroom, where personal toiletries are in children's reach. Equipment such as safety gates are available to prevent children from accessing the kitchen and upstairs. There are appropriate procedures and recording systems in relation to medication, safeguarding and accident and incidents in place. The child minder has a current first aid certificate enabling her to deal with minor issues and she has up to date safeguarding and food hygiene training. In addition, she undertakes a variety of other training so her practice remains current. The child minder considers the needs and dietary preferences of minded children and makes appropriate changes to her menus to accommodate their needs, as well as maintaining information on allergens. Fire safety procedures are appropriate, although the child minder does not record weekly smoke alarm tests.

The child minders supports children positively in terms of their behaviour. She treats children with respect, and praises their efforts and achievements. This foster a calm and nurturing environment in which children can learn and play productively. She is a positive role model and speaks gently and kindly to children. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy and strategies identified in the policy are suitable for the age and stage of development of children using the service.

Children benefit from a range of age appropriate play and learning activities. The child minder plans activities for children to meet their all - round development and ensures that they have a good range of indoor and outside play experiences. There is a system in place to plan for and to monitor children's development/progress, and records are updated when children have reached a specific stage in their development. The child minder engages successfully with children in order to facilitate and support their play and leaning. She is nurturing, calm, approachable, and supportive. During play activities, the child minder asks children simple questions to support their language development and shows interest in what they have to say and what they produce.

## Environment

The premises are secure and safe for children who use the service. Appropriate safety maintenance checks are completed and there are up to date safety certificates available. The child minder maintains a record of children's times of arrival and departure, so there is a record of who is on the premises at any given time. A section of the back garden is currently undergoing maintenance work. Whilst this work is under way, the child minder has adapted the outdoor space for children to use for play, with a canopy to protect them in warm weather.

Children benefit from an environment that is appropriate for their needs. The home is welcoming, and suitably decorated and maintained. There is a large living area with storage for resources, many of which are accessible to children. The home has sufficient natural light and children's independence promoted, as the downstairs bathroom facilities are easily accessible. The kitchen is large enough for children to eat in comfort and there is additional seating for younger children to use at snack time. The outdoor area provides additional play space for children, with the opportunity for messy play and craft activities in this area.

The child minder considers the needs of children and ensures that there are sufficient toys and resources to meet their needs. Furniture, equipment and toys are appropriate and there are sufficient numbers of child-sized chairs and tables for children across the age range. There are some cultural resources for children, to extend their understanding of the world around them and a plentiful supply of arts and craft materials, interactive toys and smaller toys for younger children.

## Leadership and Management

The child minder manages her service appropriately and has a clear understanding of her role. The statement of purpose provides parents with accurate information about her service, so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. The child minder has a suitable range of policies to support her service. She shares key policies with parents, so they have relevant information by the time their child attends. There are appropriate record keeping systems in terms of contracts, parental permissions and information on children.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are up to date for all persons over 16 who live at the premises and the child minder notifies CIW of changes to her service appropriately. The child minder informs parents of any holidays and closures to the service so that they can make alternative child care arrangements.

The child minder has a system for reviewing and monitoring her service to plan for improvements. At the current time, she is in the process of completing her annual review of her service. She is awaiting the return of parent and children's questionnaires and feedback from these will form part of her review of quality of care report. We have viewed questionnaires obtained as part of previous reviews and the feedback from these was very positive. The child minder has addressed recommendations of the previous inspection in relation to training, recording keeping, the outdoor area, information on allergens, and policies.

Communication with parents is good. The child minder recognises the importance of keeping parents aware of changes to her service and ensures that she updates them regularly. Parents we spoke to commented positively about the care she offers, how she keeps them informed about their child's progress and confirmed that they receive information on revised policies and procedures and have received updates about changes due to the pandemic.



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

R1. Identify all possible hazards, including within the bathroom to minimise risks to children.

R2. Develop record keeping systems in relation to smoke alarm tests and cleaning routines.

R3. Forward a copy of the annual review of quality of care report to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) following feedback from parents and children who use the service.

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

The Registered Person must ensure that all parts of the relevant premises are so far as reasonably practicable free from hazards to children's safety. The Registered Person must ensure that a gas safety check is completed and that evidence that the check has been undertaken is forwarded to CSSIW without delay.	Regulation 25 (a)
---	-------------------

The Registered Person must ensure that the Statement of Purpose accurately reflects the age-range, sex and number of children for whom care is intended to be provided. The Registered Person must ensure that the Statement of Purpose is revised and accurately reflects the number of children she is currently registered to care for. A copy of the revised document should be forwarded to CSSIW.	Regulation 15 (1) (b)
---	-----------------------

The Registered Person has not ensured that she has a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. She must ensure that she completes an application to renew her DBS check. Once the DBS certificate has been issued the child minder must inform CSSIW and make it available to officers.	Regulation 6 (3) (a) [i]
---	--------------------------

**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	
------	--

**Date Published** 08/07/2021