



## Inspection Report

**Alison Sussex**

**Denbigh**



**Date Inspection Completed**

23/03/2023

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	7
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	21 July 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Click or tap here to enter text.No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language however demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

<u><a href="#">Well-being</a></u>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u><a href="#">Care and Development</a></u>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u><a href="#">Environment</a></u>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u><a href="#">Leadership and Management</a></u>	<b>Excellent</b>

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

### **Summary**

Children are active and curious learners who make choices about what they want to play with. Interactions between children and the child minder are exceptionally good. Children's opinions and interests are highly valued and acted on. They are made to feel special. Children show real attachment to the child minder and have care, which is warm, relaxed, and respectful of their needs. Children are developing their independence skills effectively.

The child minder focuses exceptionally well on the interests of the children, their individual needs and development. The child minder interacts well with the children, positively demonstrating kindness. She nurtures the children and listens to all their choices and ideas. The child minder has a warm and friendly approach and gives children plenty of praise. She plans and organises interesting activities which are led by children's choices and include themes such as special events.

A well-resourced playroom and new outdoor area provide excellent opportunities to develop a range of skills. There are a variety of materials including plastic and natural objects. The layout of the playroom promotes children's independence well. The room is attractively organised to enable children to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. The child minder makes sure pieces of children's work are displayed as well as children's family photographs and this creates a sense of belonging. There are exciting opportunities for children learn about their environment through an abundance of visits to the local area and further afield.

Parents and children benefit from a highly professionally run child minding business. Records and documentation are very well organised and professionally presented. The child minder is pro-active in starting up and organising regular meetings for child minders and their children in the area and she is a mentor for new child minders. She has built positive partnerships with parents whom she keeps well informed about their child's day.

**Well-being****Excellent**

Children communicate confidently and they chat happily together and to the child minder. They make decisions about their play and if what they want to do is not available, they ask for what they need. Children have good opportunities to choose, they move around to choose something to play with and they are happy and comfortable. They decide whether to sit at the table or play on the floor. They are listened to and their ideas and comments valued. The child minder recognises and responds to them in a way which shows she cares about them, and they are special.

Children show real attachment to the child minder with lots of hugs and cuddles. Having their own space means they develop a sense of belonging. The children receive care, which is warm, relaxed and respectful of their needs. The children were busy, and their smiles showed they were content. They soon chatted happily to us and became confident, showing their family photograph proudly naming all the family members. Children are familiar with the daily routine such as school runs and toddler groups, and this supported them to feel safe. Children are settled and busy and have fun together, happily spending time away from their parents. Children come to the child minder for reassurance, to sit on her knee and have a cuddle having just woken from a nap.

Children interact well with the child minder. They chat and benefit from this positive interaction. The child minder was very friendly, encouraging the children to show her what they were doing. Children played well together, they shared toys and took turns with no disagreements. They thoroughly enjoyed playing alongside each other making a picnic on the mat with 'knitted picnic food.' They listen to instructions and know when it is time to tidy away the toys which they do with minimal help from the child minder ready for lunch. Children have good relationships and the way they played together shows how they like coming to spend time with her.

Children can develop new skills and independence moving around to play with toys of their choice. They put on coats, waterproofs and change shoes with minimum help. Children are developing good hygiene procedures as they wash their hands regularly. Comprehensive daily diaries and progress records show the exceptional range of experiences and activities they enjoy. This includes them regularly taken on an outstanding range of outings within the local area including trips to town, nearby parks, meeting with other child minders and toddler sessions where they can develop social skills and become independent learners. They follow their own interests and ideas, with the child minder on hand to provide help and support gently. Positive relationships were observed, and language including Welsh is developing highly effectively through stories and lots of chatting.

The child minder knows how to keep children safe and healthy. She has an appropriate understanding of safeguarding procedures and completes accident and incident records and keeps parents informed. The child minder encourages children to wipe their faces, after eating with an individual flannel and this helps to develop their personal hygiene and independence. The child minder used gentle reminders to encourage a child to sit still on the low chair.

The child minder focuses well on the interests of the child, their individual needs and development. The child minder interacts with children positively demonstrating warmth and kindness. She provides a range of play and learning activities and is responsive to the children. She listens and respects all the children's choices and requests.

She plans and organises a few activities which are led by children's choices and include themes and special days. The child minder gives plenty of praise for small achievements, such as eating lunch, which builds children's self-esteem and makes the children smile. The child minder encourages children and chats to them all the time. She develops their curiosity and thinking skills by providing positive support.

Children's individual routines and preferences are followed and a completed daily diary records activities along with other information. The child minder has a file for each child and highly detailed records of their progress are made with lots of photographs making a superb record of the children's development for parents to keep. We were able to follow the achievements of some of the children for the years they have been with the child minder. The child minder plans activities to ensure the children are busy with experiences she knows they will enjoy. She also provides opportunities to socialise with others by attending a local toddler group. The child minder told us how children have a good range of activities which meet their individual needs and showed us plenty of photographic evidence. The child minder knows the children in her care exceptionally well and is highly competent in meeting their needs. The child minder has been learning Welsh and this has been highly successful as she now feels confident to speak to the children in Welsh, which they reciprocate.

**Environment****Excellent**

The child minder is aware of any hazards and there are effective written risk assessments including those for places visited with the children. The child minder ensures children are safe because the setting is well run with care and attention to every detail. The environment and toys are in excellent order, clean, well maintained and age appropriate. Fire drills are carried out at different times and recorded. This ensures all children know what to do in an emergency. The premises are secure with the front door locked and re locked after we arrived. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and supervises children well during their activities.

The child minder ensures the environment is welcoming to children as it is light and bright and well organised. Resources are plentiful, of good quality and suitable for the children attending. They are clean and in good order and accessible for the children to develop their play. The children are busy and happy. The child minder shares toys and resources with other child minders ensuring there is always different equipment and activities for the children to enjoy. Furniture such as low-level chairs and table allow the child minder to sit on the floor at the children's level for mealtimes. A secure and enclosed outdoor play area suitably resourced with new floor covering enables even the youngest children to enjoy outdoor play.

A well-resourced playroom and outdoor area provide good opportunities to develop a range of skills. There are a variety of materials including plastic and natural objects. The layout of the playroom promotes children's independence. The room is attractively organised to enable children to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. The child minder makes sure a few pieces of children's work are displayed as well as children's family photographs and this creates a sense of belonging. There are good opportunities for children to develop their senses through water play outdoors and craft activities. The child minder takes the children to toddler groups where children can learn and play in a different environment which develops their skills effectively. She also takes children regularly to local areas of interest, such as going to town on the bus, the beach and local nature parks supporting them to discover and learn more about the world around them.

## Leadership and Management

Excellent

Parents and children benefit from a highly professionally run child minding business. The records and documentation are very well organised and professionally presented. We looked at the statement of purpose which reflected the service offered. The records and documents sampled to support the service were clear and well organised. A child minding diary was kept, including attendance, meals, snacks, drinks, activities, nappy changes and sleeps they have had as well as recording them in the children's own diaries.

The child minder is pro-active, for example she has started up and organised regular meetings for local child minders with songs, stories, and puppets in the library when the original session limited numbers of children who could attend. She encourages other child minders to get together to celebrate events and she is a mentor for new child minders in the area. The child minder is a member of the childminding support organisation and she has regular updates and meetings on line. This information is then shared with other child minders.

The child minder is always improving the service she provides. She has completed an exceptionally thorough quality of care review of the service and spoke about how self evaluation and reflection is a part of her daily practice. She knows her service well and has developed the outdoor area well with the addition of natural materials and a defined space, a den, at the side of the house for the children to play. This is covered and has electricity so children can play out in all weathers and even when it is going dark. The child minder told us of her view of the service and how she wants it to be. She makes positive changes which benefit children and improve outcomes and skills for them highly effectively, especially outdoors.

The child minder ensures she keeps up to date with training and current thinking, which improves her knowledge to carry out her role effectively. She has just completed her Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Children's Care, Learning and Development. The child minder has recently been part of a yearlong focus group with an early years professional Elizabeth Jarmon looking at how space and its use can impact on children's well-being and learning. All relevant family members are on the DBS update system.

The child minder has built effective partnerships with parents. She keeps them well informed about their child's day through an app which shows photographs of the children enjoying their time at the child minders. The child minder is highly sensitive to the needs of the children and their parents and forms are completed with details of the children so the child minder can provide the highest level of care. She regularly meets other local child minders which helps socialise children and gives her a chance to chat to other child minders and share ideas.



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

None

### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

### Priority Action Notice(s)

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

We expect the provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

### Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

Ratings	What the ratings mean
<b>Excellent</b>	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children’s well-being.
<b>Good</b>	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
<b>Adequate</b>	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
<b>Poor</b>	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children’s well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice.

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