



Inspection Report

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Abertillery



Date Inspection Completed

26/10/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	13 September 2016
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. 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 people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

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.

The children are very happy, settle quickly and thrive at the child minder's home. The children have close attachments with the child minder who knows them extremely well. They have excellent opportunities to develop their skills and they thoroughly enjoy their play. Children participate in a wide range of stimulating and fun activities, both inside and outside, that nurture their learning successfully.

The child minder implements good policies and procedures to promote children's health and safety, and ensures that safeguarding underpins all aspects of the service. The child minder assesses children's progress appropriately and plans some activities daily.

Safety and security measures are thorough. The environment is very well designed to provide stimulating play opportunities and support children's independence. There is a wealth of good quality resources and equipment that enrich children's experiences.

The child minder and her assistant are a great team and work extremely well together to provide a high quality service for both children and their parents. The child minder ensures all necessary records and documents are in place and completes them fully. The child minder is extremely committed and motivated to provide the highest standards of care.

Well-being**No Rating Required**

Our observations of children's well-being were limited on this occasion because the children present slept for much of our visit. This theme will be considered in full in future inspections.

Children make themselves very much at home. We saw they were well settled and relaxed. They show excellent bonds of affection with the child minder and her assistant. Children enjoy lots of attention and praise from the child minder which enhances their self-esteem. They are confident and happy to approach her for comfort and assistance. Their feelings and emotions are well supported by the child minder. For world mental health, they made stress balls and talked about feelings. They also have faces drawn on pebbles showing different emotions if children are struggling in the day.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

The child minder implements her health and safety policies and procedures very effectively. She is able to identify children at risk and has the confidence to follow safeguarding procedures appropriately. The child minder maintains paediatric first aid training so that she can meet children's needs, and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as necessary. Effective accident, incident and medication recording systems are in place. The child minder has adapted her service well to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic and is keeping herself up to date with Welsh Government's 'Protective Measures' as they are up dated.

Children are treated very warmly, with dignity and respect. The child minder sets realistic boundaries, is a good role model and uses a consistent approach to managing behaviour. She takes account of the children's age and understanding. We saw the child minder was very positive and warm when guiding children's behaviour, and her behaviour management policy outlines that she uses praise for positive behaviour and gentle reminders for minor unwanted issues. She interacts in a considered and thoughtful manner with the children, which makes them feel secure. She also speaks with the children in a consistently calm and reassuring manner, which puts them at ease.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring environment in which children's development is promoted and their needs are met. The child minder consciously ensures that children are able to exercise choice over the activities they engage in. She is very aware of the principles of the Foundation Phase curriculum. She speaks knowledgeably about the different skills she aims to develop in the children through the various activities she provides. She takes into account children's interest and abilities, which ensures they respond well, are interested and engaged. The child minder keeps a record of children's development, with photographs and meaningful observations of their skills. She has been working with her local authority as part of a pilot for the new Curriculum for Wales and its implementation in the early years. She is incredibly enthusiastic about this and is implementing the changes with her new children this term. She is clearly dedicated to improving her own understanding of a broad range of developments in the early years in order to provide the best opportunities to the children she cares for.

Environment**No Rating Required**

Children are cared for in a clean and safe environment. The child minder carries out a daily visual risk assessment and good cleaning routines throughout the play space. She also undertakes a regular deep cleaning each Friday evening. The front door was kept locked during the inspection and the garden access is kept secure when in use. Clean, hygienically maintained toilet and hand wash facilities are available. The child minder maintains relevant insurances and an annual gas safety certificate for her home. She is aware of the need to maintain confidentiality and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Fire drills are undertaken regularly and recorded appropriately.

The facilities and equipment provided meet the children's needs very well. The home is welcoming and friendly, appropriately maintained, and there is a good standard of cleanliness and repair throughout. The child minder has created an incredibly well equipped play space for the children. It is decorated in an inviting, child-friendly way, with pictures, children's work, and mobiles displayed. The way in which resources are stored means that children can access most of them independently, and this helps to facilitate their free choice. The garden is accessed from the kitchen and the child minder has given the same high level of effort and attention to equipping it. She has created an indoor space with a role play area so the children can play outside under shelter if they want to.

Children have access to toys and equipment that are appropriate and suitable to their needs. The resources at the setting cover a wide range of play opportunities for all age groups, including books, threading activities, small world toys (such as cars and trains), dolls, construction blocks, craft resources and role play. We saw photographs of the children playing freely with the many resources available to them. The child minder also told us about the outings in their local community that she and her assistant take the children on regularly. The assistant keeps an allotment a handful of streets away and the children visit there regularly to help tend the plants and learn about gardening and vegetables.

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

Children and parents benefit from a well-run and planned setting. The child minder has a Statement of Purpose in place which contains the information required and is kept under review to ensure it is always an accurate reflection of the service provided. The setting's policies are appropriate and thorough. The register of children's attendance contains all of the necessary information and is completed in a timely manner.

Children and parents benefit from a setting which is committed to very high standards and improving outcomes for children. There is a good system in place to ensure that formal self-evaluation of the setting is undertaken on at least an annual basis. The Quality of Care report demonstrates that the child minder consults with parents and children and uses that information to set an action plan to improve the setting over the next 12 months.

Robust procedures are in place to ensure the child minder is suitable to care for children. The child minder and her assistant have DBS checks in place and the child minder has a system to ensure they are renewed as needed. The child minder has also shown a very strong commitment to her continuing professional development by undertaking many additional training courses to further improve her understanding of child care and related matters. There are contingency plans in place to deal with emergencies and nominated people in place who can be called upon in an emergency.

Parents have all the information they need to make an informed choice about using this setting. Children's needs are identified to ensure a good quality of care can be provided. Visits to the setting are undertaken and child record forms completed to ensure the child minder has the information necessary to be able to provide good quality care to the children the children's needs are met and they are happy at the setting. Copies of all policies are available to parents. Parents are kept involved and informed about their child's activities.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
New	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
Reviewed	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.
Not Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
Achieved	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	N/A

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Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	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.
Good	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.
Adequate	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.
Poor	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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