



Inspection Report

Deborah Dowding

Bridgend



Date Inspection Completed

07/09/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	[Manual Insert] 31 January 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	[Manual Insert] No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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<u>Well-being</u>	Excellent
<u>Care and Development</u>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children feel safe, happy, settled, and confident at the child minder's home. Children thoroughly enjoy their time there. They are curious learners, consistently making choices about what they do and how they spend their time at the setting. They participate fully in their play and learning and have good opportunities to develop their independence skills.

The child minder provides a warm and nurturing child-centred setting. She has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs and their development, and she plans effectively. The child minder promotes positive outcomes for children through her current knowledge and skills and her nurturing and caring attitude.

The environment is spacious, clean, and secure. The play areas are welcoming and friendly and provides a rich environment for play and learning. There are very good resources and equipment which meet the needs of the children and the child minder identifies any unnecessary risks to children and eliminates them as much as possible.

The child minder is very dedicated and clearly enjoys her role. Her vision and sense of purpose sustains improvements and promotes excellent outcomes for children. The child minder maintains the required records and has excellent organisational skills. She has very good partnerships with parents who speak very highly of her.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children are very confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are fully considered. They know that their verbal and non-verbal communication will be acted upon. Children move around the areas of the child minder's home confidently, exploring and following their interests, including new children. They have very good opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. For example, during snack time the children were able to choose where to sit and choose their snack from the selection available.

Children express enthusiasm and enjoyment. Throughout their time at the setting, we saw children happy, smiling and laughing. Children confidently communicated with the child minder and us and younger children babbled throughout the visit. Individual needs are met, and their routines are supported. For instance, when waking from a nap, the children were gently spoken to and supported until they were relaxed. They clearly have a strong sense of belonging, forming strong relationships and are very familiar with routines. For example, waiting by the door and waving bye when people leave.

Interactions between children and the childminder are consistently stimulating. Children cooperate enthusiastically and feel inspired and motivated. For example, a younger child copied an older child while stirring the playdough ingredients in a bowl. Children confidently interact with each other and included visitors in their play, showing a good sense of confidence. For example, younger children shared the cakes made from playdough with other children and us.

Children are highly motivated, animated, and fully engaged in their play and learning. We heard children mumbling to themselves as they played, and they concentrated for a good amount of time on their chosen activity. They eagerly enjoy interesting and stimulating opportunities indoors and out, they can also choose to relax and have quiet times. Children have considerable freedom to safely explore their indoor and outdoor environment. For instance, they move confidently between the areas and around the furniture and resources safely.

Children are self-motivated to initiate their own play and to influence their tasks and activities because there is a focus on child led activities. Children take part in activities resulting in a great feeling of achievement and high self-esteem. They are enthusiastic to show or talk about what they have been doing. For example, children thoroughly enjoyed taking photographs of various items on a children's camera. They enthusiastically showed us and the child minder the photographs they had taken. Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do things for themselves successfully. For instance, they were encouraged to try to peel the fruit themselves before being offered support.

Care and Development

Excellent

The childminder understands and consistently implements policies which promotes healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety, and well-being. She regularly reminds children about being safe with verbal reminders throughout the day. The child minder only provides healthy snacks of fruit, however, she has not consulted the food standards agency to ensure that she follows current guidance in relation to food hygiene training. The childminder identifies and actively manages risks, through daily safety checks and ensuring that children only access appropriate spaces. For example, she has safety gates in place and closes doors to any rooms that children do not access alone. She implements robust cleaning and good hygiene practices within the setting, for herself and with the children. She has a very strong understanding of her responsibilities to safeguard children and very confidently answered questions about the steps she would take in a child protection scenario.

The childminder fully understands the behaviour management policy and consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies. She acts as a very good role model at all times. For instance, while playing, the childminder modelled respectful play and good interactions. She reinforces good behaviour with regular positive reinforcement including *“well done, nice manners and that’s kind”*. She genuinely listens and respects children’s views. For example, she is consistently responsive to the children’s needs, questions, and requests. The interactions are very positive, showing warmth and kindness.

The child minder is committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities. She offers toys and resources which allow children to develop a wide range of skills and learning. For example, resources which develop their curiosity, imagination, language, physical and creative abilities. While supporting children in their play, the childminder uses some open questions with the children and challenges them in their play. For instance, a child says the playdough is sticky. The childminder asked, “what can we do to make it less sticky?” Leading to a discussion about the different ingredients available to add to the mixture.

The childminder is very aware of children’s individual development. She varies her language and questions depending on the age and stage of development. The childminder has a good understanding of children’s individual needs. She plans well for the next steps and regularly reviews the children’s progress and tailors play and activities to promote learning. The childminder keeps parents informed of children’s development through regular verbal feedback and the use of an electronic app. She uses some basic Welsh as part of their service and is very aware of the importance of promoting the Welsh language. She supports children to become independent learners and develop their independence skills. For example, she supported younger children to independently visit the toilet and wash their hands but was available to offer support if necessary.

Environment

Excellent

The child minder has effective procedures to keep the environment safe for children. The environment is safe, secure, and extremely well maintained indoors and outdoors. The child minder keeps a record of visitors to the property and has effective risk assessments in all areas used for child minding. She regularly carries out safety checks and effectively organises consistent cleaning routines that reflect very good infection control practices.

The child minder provides a very stimulating, spacious, and accessible area for children to enjoy their play by ensuring the premises are warm and welcoming. There are many photographs of the children on display to promote the children's sense of belonging and they feel valued in the child minder's home. The child minder ensures children have the freedom to safely explore the indoor and outdoor environment when they choose. The door from the inside playroom to the outside play area is open throughout the session; allowing children to move freely between the two environments and choose for themselves where they want to play. The outdoor area provides extensive play opportunities through the use of different areas. The outdoor cabin provides an additional learning space for children and opportunities to be creative with crafts and musical instruments.

The child minder provides an extensive range of high-quality resources and equipment. Children have access to a wide range of play opportunities including role play, craft and sensory experiences that are age and stage appropriate. There are child sized tables and chairs as well as larger comfortable sofas and furniture which provide a space for older children to rest on and sit at for their activities and mealtimes. There is a diverse selection of resources which include craft items, experimental play activities, books, games, play people, real authentic resources and dressing up. Resources are plentiful and in excellent condition. The outdoor area, including the cabin and various equipment extends children's play experiences further through experimental play, construction play and a home area for cooking. The child minder is knowledgeable about managing risks and supporting the children to make their own choices.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder has an exceptional vision, creating a very positive ethos where all children feel valued and important. She manages her business successfully and strives to promote excellent outcomes for children. The statement of purpose is very comprehensive, clear, and informative and fully informs parents and carers of the service she provides. The child minder ensures she achieves extremely high standards, delivers high quality care, and provides valuable learning and development opportunities for the children. She is very efficient, extremely organised and places great importance on ensuring she runs an inclusive service. The required child records and documents are in place and the child minder ensures she completes them in detail. The child minder is registered with the Information Commissioners Office and her insurance and car documents are valid.

The child minder implements effective systems to support meaningful self-evaluation and improvement. She is extremely approachable and welcomes any ideas or suggestions to improve her practice. A quality of care report is available and considers the views of children as well as parents and carers. Her review highlights her strengths, and the child minder also identifies areas she would like to build on such as learning British Sign Language and making alterations to her home to benefit minded children.

The child minder manages her business effectively and professionally. She ensures that all adult household members have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. She fully understands her responsibility to inform CIW of any changes to household members. The child minder is confident and sets high expectations. She regularly attends training and keeps herself up to date with relevant issues.

The child minder has developed excellent partnerships with parents. She is committed to working together to promote the children's well-being. She ensures communication systems with parents and carers are inclusive, and she keeps them well informed. Feedback from parents is extremely positive with some comments stating, '*she is an excellent child minder and treats my child like her own*'. The child minder has strong links with a wide range of professionals and the community, she visits local parks, play centres, playgroups and works closely with other child minders to promote positive outcomes for children.

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
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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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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)
Standard 10 - Healthcare	The childminder should liaise with the Food Standards Agency in relation to food hygiene training.

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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