



Inspection Report

Amber Graham

Llanwrtyd Wells



Date Inspection Completed

18/10/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	5
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert This is the first inspection since registration.
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert 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 people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

Summary

Children are happy and settled with this child minder. They are able to make some choices about how they spend their time and are confident communicators. Children behave well and interact with each other as is appropriate for their ages. They enjoy their play and are able to follow their interests. The child minder generally keeps children safe and healthy. She engages with children in a positive manner and supports them in their play and learning.

Overall, the environment indoors is secure, suitably clean, and safe. There is a stimulating outdoor area although the children do not currently use the whole space and there is a drop from one area to another that is a safety issue. Children have access to a suitable range of toys and resources that are appropriate for their needs.

The child minder is developing the management of her business. She has a range of policies and records in place to support the running of her setting. However, she was not fully compliant with all regulations and does not always meet the national minimum standards. Following the inspection, we have issued two areas for improvement and made a number of recommendations.

Well-being

Children have some opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They know they can ask for the things they want to play with and the child minder will get them. However, during the inspection, the organisation of the rooms meant that children had very few opportunities to access toys or resources independently. They could choose from a small toy box on the landing if they were upstairs. Since the inspection, the child minder has shown she has re-organised part of the dining room to enable older children to have independent access to some of the toys and resources. Children speak confidently to each other and to the child minder. They know they will be listened to and receive a response.

Children are happy and relaxed with the child minder. They form close bonds and benefit from a child minder who gets to know them well. Parents we spoke to told us their children had settled very quickly and easily at the setting.

Children interact and play with each other in ways that are appropriate for their age. Older children are careful of younger ones. They behave well and are learning to play together, take turns and co-operate. For example, we saw children work together and with the child minder to put together a car track. They then enjoyed playing with it and sustained their interest for an extended period.

Children are learning and developing in all areas during their time with the childminder. They benefit from Forest School activities organised by the child minder and we saw photographs of them on a walk the previous week when they collected leaves and made 'leaf kebabs'. They also attend a playgroup session with the child minder once a week. Children are developing self-help skills such as eating independently and putting on their own shoes. They are learning to negotiate stairs very competently as they go up and down to the bathroom.

Care and Development

The child minder has policies and procedures in place in relation to the health and safety of the children in her care. However, she has not reviewed these and they do not always fully support robust procedures. For example, the child minder has a basic child protection policy in place but it does not contain things such as contact numbers for the local child protection agencies or detailed information about some types of potential abuse including being alert to radicalisation as detailed in the Prevent Duty. The child minder has a basic knowledge of what to do if she is concerned about a child although she has not updated her safeguarding knowledge recently. During our inspection visit, the child minder did not provide food as the children ate meals brought from home. The child minder encouraged children to wash their hands after visiting the toilet but did not always ensure they washed them before eating. The child minder has suitable paperwork in place to record accidents, incidents, any injuries or bumps a child may have when they arrive at the setting and any medication she administers. However, she obtains blanket permission to administer medication and parents had not signed the section on the medication form to give permission each time medicine was administered.

The child minder manages interactions well. She talks to children in a calm and kind manner and helps them to manage any minor disputes in a positive manner. For example, we heard her explain to the children that they needed to tidy toys away so they did not fall over them or break them.

The child minder promotes children's play, learning and development and ensures they have times to rest. However, the child minder was using her own children's beds and bedding for the minded children to sleep in. This does not meet infection control guidelines. Since the inspection, the child minder has confirmed to us that each child now has their own sleeping bag and they no longer share the bedding of other children.

The child minder engages with children in their play and learning. We saw her support children as they played with duplo by naming colours, asking what they were building and praising their efforts. She recognised when they lost interest, encouraged them to help tidy the duplo away and asked them what they wanted now. The child minder does not do any kind of formal planning at this time and does not track the children's progress. However, she does recognise when a child may have a particular need and we saw photographs of recent activities she has provided to support those needs. We saw evidence of a planning system she has used in the past and the child minder told us that she intends to re-start this. The child minder told us she is a lover of the outdoors and ensures children get plenty of fresh air and exercise. For example, they walk to school and walk the child minders dogs on a daily basis. She keeps parents informed about what their children do and parents told us they are happy with the progress their children make with the child minder.

Environment

Overall, the child minder has procedures to keep her home safe and secure. She uses her living room, dining room, upstairs bathroom and bedrooms for her business. Baby gates are in place at the top and bottom of the stairs and at the kitchen door. This prevents unsupervised access to the kitchen and the dogs. Radiator covers are in place. However, during the inspection we found one that had loose slats that exposed sharp pins on the inside of the cover. Following the inspection, the child minder took quick action to repair this. All areas of the premises are suitably clean and tidy. The child minder has risk assessments in place for the indoors although they are not dated and have not been reviewed. The outdoor area to the front of the house is very well set up and includes a substantial outdoor classroom area. It provides a rich learning environment and is securely fenced. However, there are two distinct areas to the garden and there is a significant drop between the two that is not safe for young children. The child minder does not have a risk assessment for the outside. She told us that she is not currently using the outdoor area very much as it is uncertain how much of it is included within the boundaries of the property, so she is seeking advice from the relevant authority. The child minder confirmed she will not use this area until she has risk assessed the area and resolved the safety issues. The rear garden is not safe for young children and the child minder told us she does not use it. The child minder carries out monthly fire evacuation practices.

The child minder uses her connecting living room and dining room as the children's play space. The child minder provides a range of suitable toys and resources although the children are unable to access most of these independently. The child minder has made some improvements to this since the inspection visit.

The child minder ensures that the children have access to furniture, equipment and toys that are appropriate for their age, needs and stage of development. She currently does not care for any young babies.

Leadership and Management

The child minder has most of the paperwork, policies and procedures needed to run her business. However, she does not always review, update or date these to ensure they fully reflect her service and meet regulations and national minimum standards. Additionally we found that the child minder was not recording the children who were present at her setting. This means she was non-compliant with regulations. The child minder confirmed that she used to record attendance and will start to do so again. We have issued an area for improvement in relation to this. The child minder has a statement of purpose that reflects how her service operates. She has not yet checked if she needs to register with the Information Commissioners Office in relation to the information she collects and stores.

The child minder reviews the quality of her care annually and produces a brief report. Her most recent review identifies some improvements and updates on actions she identified the previous year. However, although she has done in the past, this year she did not seek the views of parents or children as is required by regulation. We have issued an area for improvement in relation to this.

The child minder ensures that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are up to date for herself and any household members. She also has a paediatric first aid certificate that is valid until February 2022 and has been proactive in booking a refresher course for November 2021.

The child minder develops very good relationships with parents. She has contracts in place for all children in her care and obtains a range of relevant permissions. For example, for emergency medical treatment, routine outings and travelling in her car. She did not have permission for children to be in contact with her dogs. She therefore could not evidence all parents are happy with this in the event of a dispute. The child minder keeps parent up to date via a closed facebook page and is proactive in posting messages and photographs. We had feedback by email from a number of parents who all told us they are very happy with the service the child minder provides and the information they receive.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Update and improve safeguarding knowledge.

R2 Consistently follow suitable hygiene procedures.

R3 Ensure parents give permission for all relevant activities including to administer medication each time it is given and to have contact with the child minders dogs.

R4 Consider implementing a planning system for children's learning and development and develop a means of tracking progress.

R5 Ensure the front garden is risk assessed and made safe before using.

R6 Review and update all paperwork, policies and procedures ensuring they are dated and reflect your practice, regulations and 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
30	The provider did not record the attendance of children at her setting. She must ensure she records	New

	which children are present and the times they are present.	
16	The child minder has not asked for the views of parents or children when carrying out the quality of care review for her setting. She must ensure that she asks parents for their views of the quality of her setting and seeks the views of children in ways that are appropriate for their age.	New

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