



Inspection Report

Catherine Read

Wrexham



Date Inspection Completed

08/04/2021

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About the service

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| Type of care provided | Child Minder |
| Registered places | 6 |
| Language of the service | English |
| Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection | Manual Insert Post registration inspection |
| 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

This was a post registration inspection and on this occasion, we, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), did not consider the themes of well-being, care and development or leadership and management in detail.

Children are happy with their child minder. They play confidently in her company and express themselves well according to their age and stage of development. Suitable activities ensure they are interested in their play and learning and enjoy themselves. The child minder is kind and caring and we could see she knew the children well and was considerate of their needs and preferences. The premises are immaculate and very well maintained, and provide the space and facilities needed. The child minder has responded to guidance published regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and parents can be reassured she has taken action to minimise the risk to children. The child minder uses her knowledge skills and experience of childcare to work with parents to support children's development. Improvements have been made to the service since registration, the most beneficial being the refurbishment of the garden for outdoor play.

Well-being

Children have opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. They are responded to in a timely manner and can choose toys and activities they like. They can move freely in and between the rooms in which they are cared for and go outdoors into the garden when the weather is fine to do so.

Children are settled and happy, they climb onto the child minder's lap showing they have bonded well with her and are happy to be comforted. They speak to her with confidence and know she will listen to them. A child asked the child minder to read a story to them, the childminder interacted positively with the child, sitting with them on the floor with the chosen book. Children have a choice of Welsh and English medium storybooks to choose from which promotes the use of a second language.

Children interact with others appropriately and behave well as they are treated with kindness and respect. Children benefit from individual care and attention as the childminder is aware of their needs and preferences. Distraction is used effectively to ease situations such as having to share with others and over excitement. When asked to quieten down after being tickled a child did so immediately showing how well children learn to regulate their behaviour and self-control with their childminder.

Children are interested and happy in their play and join in with others. They share toys with one another and have a suitable amount of resources to choose from which are age appropriate. The children laugh and have fun together and enjoyed telling us about a robot they had made earlier using the construction bricks. They learn to count, recognise colours and use new vocabulary, through their play. They have opportunities to be active outdoors in the local community and visit places of special interest to them. They were excited about the trip to Llangollen and a picnic in the park arranged for the afternoon. A visit to the Zoo was also planned for later in the week.

Care and Development

The child minder promotes children's safety through her safeguarding policies and procedures. She has recently attended an 'Infection Prevention and Control in an Early Years Setting' training to ensure childcare provided through the pandemic is appropriate. She has an up to date certificate for administering First Aid and a Food Hygiene certificate. She has downloaded the 'Wales Safeguarding' application and is aware of the procedures to be followed should she have concerns about a child. The premises are secure and visitors would be required to sign in and out, show ID and conform with the settings COVID-19 risk assessment as we did. Other registered childminders do occasionally visit during minding hours when permitted. Daily registers are completed accurately along with appropriate records in place for accidents, incidents and the administration of medication. The child minder said she had not administered any medication and only one child had a completed accident record and their parent was informed. The child minder has relevant written consent from parents for their children. Fire drills are completed often and children are used to leaving the home in an emergency, to the sound of the alarm.

The child minder engages with the children positively and uses praise effectively. Children's behaviour is very good as they are supervised well. When issues arise for example when encouraging children to eat a variety of different foods, the child minder enters into discussions with parents to resolve the situation together.

The child minder is aware of individual needs, and works alongside parents to ensure she meets children's needs effectively. Children settle well at the service, some children have attended since they were young babies. During COVID-19 children have missed out on being able to attend toddler and play groups and play centres, but slowly the child minder is accessing these facilities as restrictions are lifted. Records of children's progress are kept electronically and photographs are forwarded to parents on a regular basis. Daily diaries are used for younger children.

Environment

The child minder ensures her premises are safe and secure by implementing effective risk assessments. These have been regularly updated in line with COVID-19 guidance. The side gate and front door were locked to restrict entry to the premises. A record is maintained of all visitors to the premises. We completed a doorstep risk assessment in relation to COVID-19 and the child minder had systems in place to ensure the safety of herself and minded children. The premises were extremely clean, tidy and well maintained which minimises the risk of cross infection. A safety gate is used to prevent children from accessing the kitchen unsupervised. When travelling in the car the child minder ensures she has suitable car seats and contact details for parents are to hand.

The child minder ensures the suitability of the environment for young children. The lounge is spacious enough for the number of children registered to attend. Activities are also provided on the kitchen table and on floor mats. Children are able to access the outdoors when the weather is suitable. Since registration, artificial grass has been laid to the rear of the premises, providing an area where young children can safely crawl and play.

The child minder provides a range of suitable resources, which are stored appropriately to ensure they stay clean and safe to use. Any items found to be broken are replaced. New resources bought include a selection of small world farm animals and dinosaurs and a play shop and large play equipment for the garden. A garden shed is used to store play equipment for outdoor play.

Leadership and Management

The child minder manages her service very well and has a good understanding of her role. She is keen to develop her service and seeks advice when she needs to. The childminder has satisfactory disclosure and barring service certificates for herself and her partner. She has the required policies, procedures and records in place, which includes children's personal information, which is stored securely, and attendance records. Many records are kept electronically using suitable applications. The childminder attends mandatory training, such as first aid and safeguarding. The current statement of purpose sent to CIW recently, is an accurate account of the service provided.

The childminder is working on her quality of care review and will complete a report for CIW and parents by summer 2021. She has a clear vision of what the service needs to offer and how it must be run and regularly evaluates her own performance and seeks feedback verbally from parents. An example of this is where discussions with parents have been held and they have been listened to when changing car seats. The views of parents and children will be collected to support her future plans this summer. The child minder seeks support from other registered childminders she works alongside and CIW. The child minder engages with CIW appropriately, for example, sharing policy updates, training certificates and information required during her house move. The child minder has public liability insurance and suitable vehicle documents in place to allow her to transport children safely.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. As part of the inspection process, we were only able to speak to two parents and they confirmed they were happy. The child minder keeps parents up to date regularly passing on information of children's progress through verbal communications and use of a private group social media application. She also displays her certificates and weekly planning sheets on a noticeboard in her kitchen.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

RI It is recommended the childminder evaluates activities and includes written details of the next steps in relation to children's developmental progress on her weekly planning.

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

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

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| None | |
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Areas where priority action is required

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Areas where improvement is required

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