



Inspection Report

Robyn Studdart

Newport



Date Inspection Completed

02/03/2022

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	9
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First Inspection since registration 10 September 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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

Children feel secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. The children have formed positive relationships with the child minder. They are forming strong friendships with their peers and are sensitive to others. Children have good opportunities to become independent and develop their individual skills through a good range of quality experiences and play.

The child minder has detailed policies and procedures, which promote the children's well-being. There is a caring atmosphere and the child minder meets children's individual needs successfully.

The environment is welcoming and well- resourced and supports children's play and learning. An appropriate range of toys and resources promote children's all round development. The children enjoy regular visits to the local parks and play groups. The setting is welcoming and friendly.

The child minder manages the setting effectively. There is a clear statement of purpose, which provides an accurate picture of the service. The child minder has high expectations and shares her values about learning and behaviour with the children. The child minder works well with parents to give them information about the service and the children's well-being and care.

Well-being

Children play freely, choosing their own toys independently. Children communicate very confidently and know their wishes and needs are always considered. Children speak openly to the child minder and it is clear that the children have formed positive bonds of affection with her and her family. The children happily approach her to chat enthusiastically about their play and learning. They are excited to greet visitors and family members and eagerly include them into their play.

The children share their feelings openly because they are encouraged to do so and know the child minder thoroughly considers their likes, dislikes and needs. One of the children was a little unsure of visitors and initially sought comfort, cuddles and reassurance from the child minder. They soon settled. Children play happily and are content. Interactions between the children and the child minder are good and children are interested and enthusiastic. They enjoy playing with small world toys and are eager to include the childminder in their play. The children chat happily and are curious learners. For example, the younger child wanted to pretend to make tea and asked the childminder "*where is my cup? I want to make drink for the lady?*" The childminder reminded the child where the toy cups are kept in the play kitchen and said "*You will be careful not to spill your drinks won't you?*" and child nodded happily went to make pretend drinks for everyone.

Children are fully engaged and are very interested in their play and learning. They enjoy a good range of opportunities, indoors and outdoors, and choose when they want to relax and have quiet times. They have many opportunities to choose their own play and to give their opinions on their tasks. Children enjoyed pretend play in the toy kitchen area, and included us in the activity by offering us toy food.

Children have numerous opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do things for themselves, for example washing their hands. They have lots of free choice, choosing when they were ready for their morning snack and they are full and leave the table to carry on playing. They are familiar with their routines and tidy up their toys saying "come on its time to tidy up".

Care and Development

The child minder has appropriate information to keep children safe. She implements suitable measures to reduce risks associated with Covid19 in line with Welsh Government guidance. She has a detailed risk assessment to guide her actions. For example, she cleans the environment thoroughly and supports children to wash their hands regularly. Non-essential visitors do not enter the premises.

The childminder has good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and has current safeguarding training. She is clear about recognising the signs of any concerns and has an up to date child protection policy. The child minder has a good understanding of children's individual dietary requirements and promoting healthy eating. The childminder does not provide food as part of her service. She encourages parents to provide healthy meals and drinks. She reminds children to drink water throughout the session so that children are hydrated. The childminder has good record keeping system in place. She keeps a record of all accidents and incidents signed by parents. The child minder considers the children's health and safety well, storing medication safely and clearly recording and considering children's medical requirements and allergies.

The child minder shows that she knows the children very well. She understands the behaviour management policy and uses positive behaviour management strategies. She acts as a good role model and promotes good manners. We heard lots of positive behaviour reinforcement and praise throughout our visit. The child minder provides the children with clear instructions to follow and encourages them to take ownership of everything they do. Interactions between the child minder and the children are warm and kind, such as "*would you like to help tidy up?*". The child minder manages interactions in a positive and constructive manner. She reminds children to '*be kind, share*' and '*be careful*'.

The child minder ensures children experience a variety of stimulating activities. There is a system in place to plan for and monitor the progress of younger pre-school children. This tracks children's development across all skill areas and shows if any areas need additional attention. The child minder understands the importance of children being physically active. She ensures that children have regular trips to local parks and when has successfully re-introduced visits to playgroups.

Environment

The child minder ensures that the environment is safe, clean and well maintained indoors and outdoors. The premises is locked and secure. The child minder keeps the front entrance door locked and expects visitors to sign in and out of the premises. The premises is welcoming, warm and accessible to all. The playrooms are organised well and has a homely feeling and a free flow into the dining area and kitchen.

The child minder completes effective and detailed general and fire risk assessments, which she regularly reviews. She supervises children well and understands the difference between acceptable and unacceptable risk for the age group of children she cares for. The child minder practises regular fire drills. However, she does not record the time taken for children to leave the premises. By recording times of evacuation the child minder will be able to identify patterns and improve safe practice for children.

The child minder uses the outdoor play space as often as possible. The child minder has a wide variety of resources available outside to extend the children's knowledge and development including a sheltered patio area so children have access to fresh air and exercise even in inclement weather conditions. The family have a pet dog and there is an enclosed play area specifically for the dog, in case some children are weary of animals. Both indoor and outdoor areas of the childminder's house has been risk assessed and risks managed. However, we noted the washing line and cables to the patio lights were trailing, therefore they could be accessible by older children.

Inside, the child minder ensures the children have access to a good range of quality toys and play equipment that suits their individual needs. The layout and design of the environment promotes children's independence. Toys and resources are stored in appropriate storage boxes which are free accessible to the children. The child minder ensures the play environment is child centred and appealing, filled with lots of interesting activities and play equipment. The child minder makes sure that the children have access to a wide range of books and toys that suits their age and stage of development and reflect positive images of diversity; such as jigsaws, construction blocks, and craft resources.

Leadership and Management

The service is managed well with all policies and procedures up to date. The child minder is confident. Planning is good and meaningful, supporting outcomes for children. She provides a service where children are at the heart of decisions and their well-being given priority. The child minder has a clear vision for the service and she shares her enthusiasm with other providers in her area. The child minder keeps up to date with best practice relevant to the children in her care.

The child minder has high expectations for herself with a clear statement of purpose for her service. Discussion with the child minder shows she is open to new ideas and embraces the need for continuous improvement. She actively implements self-evaluation and seeks and implements the suggestions of children, their parents/carers and other interested partners. The child minder is passionate about her responsibilities. The child minder reviews policies regularly, shares with parents and implements them thoroughly in practice.

The child minders record keeping in the main is good and regularly updated however; the daily registers currently do not record the actual times of arrival and departure. Instead, they note the contractual hours when children are expected. There are disclosure and barring check certificates for the child minder and anyone living at the premises above the age of 16 years of age.

Communication with parents is good. The child minder keeps parents informed about changes to the service and communicates regularly with them verbally, with phone calls and text messages. Parents are extremely happy with the service the child minder provides. They highly value the support given particularly during the recent lockdowns, praising her efforts to maintain contact. Written feedback from parents noted that they felt assured of the safety measures the child minder had taken to keep the children safe, especially during the pandemic.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Improve registers to show actual times of arrivals and departures rather than contractual hours.

R2. Improve fire evacuation records to include information regarding the time it takes to safely evacuate.

R3. Minimise all risk of trailing cables.

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 inspection	N/A

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