



Inspection Report

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Caldicot



Date Inspection Completed

13/01/2022

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection since the childminder's registration in December 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.

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

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

Summary

Children are happy and settled at the service. They are able to make choices and decisions about their play. They have warm and supportive relationships and have positive bonds with the child minder. They enjoy the play and learning opportunities available and activities are age appropriate and suitably challenging.

The child minder understands how to keep children safe. She manages interactions in a positive way to support children's behaviour and play. She plans appropriate activities for children in her care, identifies their progress and plans for their development.

The environment is welcoming and fairly suitably organised, supporting children's play and learning. Although an appropriate range toys and resources promote children's all round development, creating more play space would benefit the children in the playroom. The children enjoy regular visits to the local park.

The child minder manages the setting appropriately. She has suitable policies, procedures and records. Parents are complimentary of the setting and the child minder has built positive partnerships.

Well-being**Adequate**

Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about their play. They are confident to speak out and say what resources they want to play with. Children are confident moving around the home, selecting toys and choosing activities, with support from the child minder.

Older children communicate well verbally and are confident at expressing their needs. Younger children are beginning to use non-verbal methods such as gestures and signs. Children know that their preferences are heard and their needs will be met. This allows them to feel comfortable and secure. Children receive frequent praise and compliments from the child minder for their efforts. They receive encouragement to develop interests. For example, older children were keen to discuss with the child minder what they were playing with. There are regular trips to the park and other outdoor areas to extend children's social experiences. Prior to the pandemic, they regularly attended the local playgroups.

Children are nurtured meeting their emotional needs. They receive comfort from a child minder who knows them well. Children enjoy sitting on the child minder's lap and feel a sense of belonging and attachment to her. The child minder was patient and attentive to a new toddler who stayed close to her at all time. When not sitting on her lap the child would sit on the floor, leaning into the child minder.

Children enjoy their play and the opportunities to develop and learn new skills. They show enjoyment and pleasure in playing with others, but also value the child minders involvement in activities. Children have opportunities to develop their skills with the abundance of toys available to them in the play room. However, the volume of activities stored at floor level can limit space for children to move around more freely.

Care and Development**Adequate**

The child minder has the appropriate information to keep children safe. She implements suitable measures to reduce risks associated with Covid 19, in line with Welsh Government guidance. She has a detailed risk assessment to guide her actions. For example, she supports children to wash their hands regularly. Non-essential visitors do not enter the premises. The child minder has up to date training in safeguarding children and has an understanding of procedures to follow should there be any concerns. She has a current first aid certificate enabling her to deal with minor issues.

The child minder does not offer any meals or snacks. Parents provide all foods and therefore the child minder is not required to register her service with Food Standards Agency as a business. However, she would benefit in completing a food and hygiene training. Enrolment for various training has been challenging due to the pandemic., Following our visit, the child minder confirmed to CIW that she has booked on the training to commence in March 2022.

The child minder supports children positively in terms of their behaviour. She treats children with respect, and praises their efforts and achievements. This fosters a calm and nurturing environment in which children can learn and play productively. She is a positive role model and speaks gently and kindly to children. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy.

Children benefit from a range of age appropriate play and learning activities. The child minder plans activities for children to meet their all-round development and ensures that they have a good range of indoor and outside play experiences. There is a system in place to plan for and to monitor children's development and progress. Records are updated when children have reached a specific stage in their development.

Environment**Adequate**

The child minder provides a suitable environment for children. The front door is locked to restrict entry to the premises and a record is maintained of all visitors. The house suitably maintained. Detailed annual risk assessments sets out each area of the child minder's house and her vehicle checks are complete. The annual gas safety service was not undertaken. The child minder took immediate action to address this.

The child minder's home is welcoming, maintained to a satisfactory standard with adequate space for the children to move and explore in comfort. In the main the lounge and dining rooms are both dedicated to child minding, with suitable furniture. Toys and resources are stored mainly at child height around the room. The toys and activities were of good quality and safe for use. Access to the garden was through the kitchen via the back door. We noted that the pet food was placed in a pet bowl on the floor near the garden door. This can pose a hygiene hazard. The child minder's garden area has some large apparatus for children to use such as climbing frame. Minded children do not use a small trampoline present. The child minder has mostly addressed safety issues identified at the registration visit. However, the garden hosepipe was lying uncoiled on the floor. This can be a safety issue, a trip hazard. We highlighted the issue with the child minder who agreed to make improvements immediately. Rooms throughout the house benefit from good natural light and children have access to the first floor bathroom facilities.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder is making positive steps in developing a child minding service that is organised and effective. Her statement of purpose provides parents with sufficient detail about her service so they can make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. The child minder has all the required policies and procedures in place and these are updated regularly. Record keeping in the main is good with regular updates. 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 herself and her husband. The child minder attends mandatory training, such as first aid, safeguarding and Prevent training as required.

The child minder is committed to improving her service and actively asks for feedback from parents and children by sending out questionnaires. She is reflective and open to new ideas and ways of working to benefit the children in her care and improve her business. She provides a quality of care report on an annual basis which includes the opinions of all those who use her service. The information seen during the inspection demonstrates very positive views and the service is highly recommended to others.

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 spoken to as part of the inspection process reported that they are very 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 with children. 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. Ensure annual safety checks are carried out, certification is provided by the utility company and kept securely for inspection.

R2. Improve daily register to record times of actual arrival and departure times.

R3. Ensure that the garden hose is secured to prevent accident or injury.

R4. Store toys and resources away from playrooms to allow more space for children to play, enhancing their interest and developing learning

R5. Complete food and hygiene training.

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

	inspection	
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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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