



Inspection Report

Christa Booth

Pontypridd



Date Inspection Completed

05/06/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert] No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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>	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 communicate their wishes and have some opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Their interests and decisions are taken into account, and they interact well. Children settle in well and have some opportunities to develop their independence skills.

The child minder is developing her understanding of policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety and well-being. She understands her responsibilities to safeguard children and knows the children well.

The child minder offers a homely and clean environment. All safety, fire checks and certificates are valid. Play spaces are limited but indoor and outdoor areas for children are secure.

The child minder complies with regulations and many relevant requirements within the National Minimum Standards. She keeps records and certificates in order. The child minder communicates effectively with parents and uses the community and local parks to offer further learning experiences for children.

Well-being

Adequate

Children communicate their wishes, and their needs are considered. They have some opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Children's interests and decisions are taken into account. For example, we saw some children's favourite resources being made available on request, such as dinosaurs as well as children playing happily with age-appropriate resources which had been set out.

Children settle in well because practices are implemented to support individual needs. Children are content and are beginning to form relationships with the child minder. They are becoming familiar with their surroundings and routines. Their feelings are acknowledged and there are developing bonds of attachment and affection evident. For example, we saw children happily settling in and confidently exploring some areas indoors.

Interactions between children and the child minder are positive and children are engaged in activities that have been arranged for them. Children enjoy spending time exploring resources such as a box of small building blocks. They take part in activities such as looking at books or colouring. Children also enjoy a reasonable selection of resources, but full access to these is not freely available.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do some things for themselves. Older children eat at a dining table with the child minder and are provided with some opportunities to be independent. However, children have missed opportunities to be fully independent. For example, access to areas such as the toilet requires the support of the child minder. Children bring their own drinks and have access to drinking water, with personal bottles and beakers being accessible throughout the day. We did not see children playing outdoors on the day of our visit.

Care and Development

Adequate

The child minder is continuing to develop her understanding and is working towards implementing policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety and well-being. Nappy changing is carried out with care and dignity.

However, stringent hygiene levels are not fully implemented such as consistent handwashing or appropriate hygiene practices following nappy changing procedures. The child minder is aware of her safeguarding responsibilities and has completed her training. All accident documentation is completed and signed correctly. The child minder does not prepare any food. During breakfast and feeding times, the child minder provides comfort and reassurance, enabling children to feel relaxed and safe.

Interactions between the child minder and children are consistent, demonstrating warmth and kindness. The child minder is sensitive to the needs and experiences of children and responds well to their needs.

The child minder understands children's development and demonstrates that she knows the children in her care. Children's files and records include evidence of children's work such as drawings and pictures. However, whilst developmental logs are available, these are not completed to record children's individual achievements or progress. The child minder told us that daily diaries are completed for the younger children; however, we did not see these during our visit.

The child minder offers a good range of resources, which are stored in an area of the house which is not independently accessible to the children. However, the child minder readily brings out age-appropriate resources to meet the needs of children in her care.

Environment

Adequate

The child minder has satisfactory measures and policies in place to ensure that she fulfils most of her responsibilities in relation to the safety of children in her care. She ensures that the indoor and outdoor environment is generally safe and secure. She organises basic cleaning routines that reflect satisfactory hygiene practices and infection control. The child

minder keeps a daily risk assessment diary, which includes checklists of all indoor and outdoor areas. However, this was not thorough and did not include evidence of consistent checks on all aspects of the environment. Building safety, fire checks and certificates are valid and evidences the child minder's awareness of safety requirements. All visitors sign the daily diary ensuring the safety of everyone whilst on the premises.

The main play space is homely, clean and welcoming. However, the indoor play space is limited and not set up to fully cater for young children's needs. Play resources are not displayed and appropriately presented. The outdoor area is divided into a patio and levelled garden with a gate separating these areas. This ensures that children cannot access either area without the support and supervision of the child minder. The outdoor areas are small and compact, accessed only via patio doors. Children's play resources are limited in the outdoors and not sufficient to keep the children interested and engaged in their play.

Indoor spaces such as the hallway and kitchen are closed off from the main play space with appropriate safety gates. The child minder has also fitted indoor cameras to ensure that whilst preparing children's meals, she can continue to observe children in the next room. Following the inspection, the child minder agreed to register her service with the Information Commissioner's Office.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder ensures that she complies with regulations and many relevant requirements within the National Minimum Standards. She has adequate knowledge of her regulatory responsibilities and keeps a file of relevant policies. However, these are not reviewed annually or signed to evidence that they remain relevant to the service provided. The child minder ensures that most of the required documents are in place such as the operational plan. The statement of purpose was updated following the inspection visit,

providing an accurate reflection of the service. The childminder has an up-to-date insurance certificate, and all vehicle documents are valid and correct. The child minder also has several suitable car seats and children's booster seats to ensure the safe transport of all children during school pick up trips. The child minder's daily diary demonstrates that children's arrival and departure times are recorded. These records show that the child minder always ensures that ratios are correct.

The child minder obtains informal feedback from parents and children. However, the child minder does not review her service and has not submitted the service's annual report to Care Inspectorate Wales. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder ensures that she is up to date with her training, and we saw that her paediatric first aid training is up to date. The child minder provided evidence that her kitchen area had been inspected recently by the local authority, enabling her to safely organise children's meals on the premises.

The child minder ensures that she has arrangements in place should she require the support or assistance of a backup child minder and these details are outlined clearly within the statement of purpose. The child minder communicates clearly with parents and works in partnership to meet their needs. She uses the local community and park areas to extend children's learning experiences. She also visits the local recycling hub and told us that the children enjoy the experience of choosing new play resources.

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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16	The provider must arrange and obtain feedback from those who use the service in order to monitor, review and improve the quality of care given to children. The provider must ensure that a formal system is in place to annually review the quality of care provided through obtaining the views of children or parents using the provision. The provider must prepare a report and ensure this is available to parents, the local authority arranging for child minding and the Care Inspectorate Wales.	New
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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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure children are provided with opportunities to develop their independence skills.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure that children's achievements and development is recorded to help plan for their play, learning and development.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure resources are readily accessible to children to support their play and learning.
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure that the setting is suitable for its purpose and provides a rich environment for play, offering a range of activities that promote children's development.
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure all play areas are clear and allow for free movement.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure risk assessments are purposeful and are updated and checked to meet the needs of children.
Standard 5 - Records	Ensure all policies and procedures are reviewed, updated and signed at least annually to ensure that these are still purposeful and relevant to your service.

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
Ensure that the service is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

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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Date Published 01/08/2023