



## Inspection Report

**Terri-Ann Ratledge**

**Welshpool**



**Date Inspection Completed**

10/05/2024

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First Inspection since registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	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.

<a href="#"><u>Well-being</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>
<a href="#"><u>Care and Development</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>
<a href="#"><u>Environment</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>
<a href="#"><u>Leadership and Management</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>

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

## **Summary**

Nearly all children are settled, happy, and comfortable in the care of the child minder. They have suitable opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Children interact well with each other and the child minder.

The child minder has an adequate understanding of her responsibilities to protect children. She praises children for their efforts and uses positive reinforcement regularly. The child minder provides children with suitable play and learning opportunities.

The child minder has systems in place to keep the environment safe and secure. Overall, the facilities are clean and appropriately well maintained. The child minder ensures children have access to an adequate range of equipment, toys and play materials.

The child minder runs her service adequately. She meets many of the regulations and national minimum standards, although some improvement is required to meet them all.

Children have suitable opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. For example, they choose which resources they would like to play with. They confidently asked to play in the water.

Nearly all children are settled, happy, and comfortable. New children have comforters, such as a dummy or blanket, whilst they settle. They engage in activities of their choice, happily choosing their favourite activity such as ride on cars or ball games. They mostly co-operate with each other and the child minder. They listen to instructions well and interactions are mostly positive.

Children are comfortable in the child minder's home. They have a strong relationship with the child minder and household members. They laugh, sing, and dance whilst playing and engaging with one another or during activities. Children have a sense of belonging and are familiar with routines.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills. Children remove their own shoes on entry to the home and independently access their bags. They use the downstairs bathroom and wash hands independently, or with help if needed. Children access equipment and resources which are readily available to them.

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. However, a healthy eating policy needs to be introduced. The child minder does not prepare any food. During feeding times, the child minder provides comfort and reassurance, enabling children to feel relaxed and safe. The child minder is aware of her safeguarding responsibilities and has completed her training.

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. The child minder told us that daily feedback to parents is verbal or via a mobile app where she sends daily pictures of the children in their play.

The child minder offers a good range of resources, which are stored in the living room and kitchen area and outdoors. Children are able to access some things independently. However, the child minder readily brings out age-appropriate resources to meet the needs of children in her care.

**Environment****Adequate**

The child minder ensures the front door is secure and has a separate area to allow for handovers to take place, within the safety of her home. Generally, facilities are clean and suitably maintained.

The child minder completes risk assessments for the house and outings. She told us she undertakes daily visual checks on the premises. However, risk assessments do not reflect the current play environment and regular reviews are not recorded. Regular fire drills and tests are completed, with basic information kept. The child minder supervises children adequately and knows the difference between acceptable and unacceptable risks for the age group of children she cares for.

The child minder provides a playroom, bathroom, and kitchen used for child minding. There is direct access into the secure garden. The rooms are bright and comfortable. She provides children with an adequate range of toys and play materials. There are many resources within the playroom. The child minder has recognised a need to develop more organised storage in the future and declutter some existing equipment. The indoor premises is welcoming and child friendly, with sufficient space for children to play and rest. Children have access to the garden at all times and the child minder is in the process of developing this area further.

The child minder ensures children have access to furniture, equipment and toys that are appropriate for their age, needs and stage of development. These include small world, cars, puzzles, and books. The child minder provides some toys and equipment that promote diversity.

Leadership and management of the setting is adequate. The child minder has only been registered for six weeks and is still finding her feet and making changes as she goes. She has a compliant statement of purpose which gives information on her setting. There are a range of policies in place. The child minder keeps accurate registers for children attending. The child minder has current public liability insurance. She is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The child minder has a valid and current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates for herself and current household members.

As the childminder is still relatively new, she has not completed a review of the quality of care. However, she was able to demonstrate that she is actively reviewing her service and making changes as she goes. The childminder has made improvements and recognises areas she wants to develop. For example, seeking grant funding to develop the outdoor space.

The child minder has suitable relationships with other professionals, with links and support from the local authority family information service. The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. She keeps parents up to date regularly, using verbal communication during drop off or pick up, and through private and group messages. As part of the inspection, we sought feedback via questionnaires. Comments were overall very positive.



### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	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.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	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

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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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)
To produce a Healthy Eating Policy
To record and track children's development
To formally record all fire drills
secure loose bricks in the garden
To complete risk assessments for outings including school run
To provide children with stimulating activities

Ratings	What the ratings mean
<b>Excellent</b>	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.
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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** 06/06/2024