



Inspection Report

Ceri Eccleshare

Cardiff



Date Inspection Completed

22/11/2023

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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	27 June 2017
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.

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

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

Summary

Children have excellent opportunities to make choices and follow their interests. They are extremely happy and relaxed in the child minder's care. Children delight in their play and make excellent progress in all areas of development. They are independent and highly confident in their own abilities.

The child minder is exceptionally caring. She has a thorough understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder supports children's learning and development exceptionally well. She offers a wide range of activities led by children's interests and developmental needs.

The environment is secure, clean, welcoming, and well organised to support children's play and learning. A good range of indoor and outdoor resources promote children's all-round development.

The child minder is especially motivated and committed to providing excellent outcomes for children. She maintains required records to a very high standard and has strong organisational skills. The child minder has developed beneficial partnerships with other local child minders. Parents speak very highly of the service and care she provides.

Children have excellent opportunities to make decisions and choices at the setting. For example, they thoroughly enjoy daily visits to a local supermarket to choose and buy fruit for snack. We saw children excitedly decide which resources and activities they would like to play with; their play flowing freely between the playroom, lounge, and kitchen. Children speak very confidently as they know the child minder genuinely values their thoughts and is responsive to their needs. They are always encouraged to share their ideas for activities. Older children write down their thoughts and put them in a suggestion box, coming up with exciting new places to explore for days out, such as Garwanant, Roath Park and The Knap.

Children are especially settled and happy. They feel extremely safe and relaxed in the child minder's care and develop warm and affectionate relationships with her. We saw children snuggle on the child minder's lap for story time and offer her frequent spontaneous hugs telling her they love her. Children clearly have a strong sense of belonging and feel part of the family. For example, we saw them confidently rearranging the magnetic letters of their names displayed on the fridge. Feedback from an older child echoed this feeling of belonging saying, "*Coming here is like entering a family, everyone is treated with love and respect*".

Children form very caring and considerate friendships. They interact with one another in a kind and positive way, having huge amounts of fun as they play and laugh together. Children show much empathy and sensitivity to their friend's needs. For example, one child gently comforted their hurt friend with kind words; another pulled up a chair for their friend to be the 'teacher' when role playing schools.

Children are highly motivated, animated, and fully engaged in their play and learning. This is because they can lead their own play for most of the time. For example, children developed 'story time' into a game of 'schools' where each child took turns to role play the teacher. They took great delight in repeating questions the childminder had asked during 'story time', re-enforcing their own knowledge, and testing their friends understanding. Children develop high self-esteem and a great sense of achievement when completing planned activities with the child minder. We saw them engrossed in a sticker activity, they concentrated hard on peeling back the stickers and glowed with pride as they successfully stuck them down.

Children develop significantly well. They are provided with a wide range of exciting, developmentally appropriate activities and play opportunities which promote their all-round development. For example, they plant fruit and vegetables in the garden, take part in cooking activities and attend a weekly Welsh play/activity session at the local library

Care and Development**Excellent**

The child minder has an excellent understanding of how to promote healthy lifestyles. She provides daily opportunities for children to have access to fresh air, with visits to local parks, and walks to pick up their friends from school. She provides a wide variety of nutritionally balanced snacks and meals and identifies all allergens on her menu. Drinking water is always easily accessible. The child minder ensures children are physically active and told us children love the daily sessions where they join in with online fitness videos. Excellent cleaning and hygiene practices are consistently implemented. Visual inspection of the home, observations of the child minder's practice and completed cleaning records evidence infection control is a high priority. The child minder has a thorough understanding of safeguarding and her responsibility to protect children. She knows to report any child protection concerns and has the Wales Safeguarding Procedures app on her phone, which provides her with accessible guidance to support this. Accident, incident, and medication records are completed in detail and shared with parents to ensure children's health needs are being clearly monitored.

The child minder is extremely nurturing and caring. Her warm, relaxed nature creates an atmosphere and environment where children can thrive. She interacts very well with the children and shows interest and pleasure in all that they do. The child minder frequently offers praise and encouragement and is an excellent role model to the children. She fully understands child development and its impact on children's behaviour. The child minder implements effective positive behaviour management strategies. She is consistent in her approach and reminds children of the rules and her expectations. The child minder is always responsive and listens to the children's views. She respects their feelings and allows children to express themselves in their own time.

The child minder promotes child led play which puts children at the heart of their learning and development. She provides fun and stimulating play opportunities which spark children's curiosity, allowing them endless opportunities to explore and experiment by following their own interests. She is very aware of children's individual needs, and flexible in her approach. Children's progress is consistently tracked, and detailed observations are used to plan their next steps in development. The child minder provides excellent opportunities for children to learn about their wider world as each month children learn about a different country. They find out about the country's culture and traditions and learn to speak some of the language. The child minder also promotes the Welsh language extremely well. We heard her frequently use words and phrases and sing Welsh songs with the children.

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and secure. The front door is kept locked and visitors to the setting are noted in her log book. She has undertaken suitable risk assessments for all areas of her home used by the children. In addition, the child minder carries out daily safety checks to eliminate any risks to children's health and safety. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and supervises children well during their activities. Fire drills take place every month, so children know how to evacuate in an emergency. The child minder keeps purposeful records of fire drills, including some evaluative comments. For example, she noted after one drill children needed some reassurance, so they watched an episode of Fireman Sam together. All routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are undertaken in a timely manner.

The environment is clean and well maintained. The child minder ensures the space is welcoming to children. Children's photographs are displayed around the home, which gives children a lovely sense of belonging. Displays of children's work reflect their learning and celebrate their achievements. The garden play area is safe and secure and offers a suitable range of play opportunities for children, including climbing equipment, planting areas and a muddy kitchen. The layout of the playroom promotes children's independence and is attractively organised to enable children to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. The child minder provides plenty of toys, games and equipment and organises these well, so children can access them easily.

Toys and equipment are clean and in good condition. There are some resources to promote diversity and a multi-cultural society, such as dolls and books. However, we saw a limited amount of real life and natural resources. The child minder ensures there is good quality furniture and resources to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables, chairs, low level toy storage, and child height coat stand. Liquid soap and paper towels are easily accessible to support children's independence when washing their hands.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder runs her service in a highly professional way and strives to promote excellent outcomes for children. She is dedicated and motivated to continually improve upon the service she offers. There is a clear statement of purpose providing parents with full and accurate information about how the child minder runs her setting. The child minder is very knowledgeable about her regulatory responsibilities and consistently operates above the National Minimum Standards.

The child minder frequently monitors the quality of service she offers and plans for improvements very effectively. She regularly seeks feedback from parents and children, whose views inform an annual quality of care report. In her report the child minder identifies strengths of her setting and areas she would like to develop further. The report includes very positive feedback from parents which demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with the service provided. For example, *“We are totally happy with the care, love and guidance Ceri gives at all times.”*

The child minder ensures that all household members have the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. She communicates regularly with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and is aware of her responsibility to maintain her own professional development. The child minder has undertaken a wide range of additional training to help improve her working knowledge and practices. For example, training in ‘play, learning and the brain’ and ‘active babies.’ This has had a positive impact, particularly in the importance she now places upon children being physically active from a very young age. The child minder embeds her knowledge into her practice, by supporting the children and meeting their individual needs.

The child minder has established very positive relationships with parents. Parents receive regular feedback on their child’s progress via a digital app and verbally at the end of the day. Excellent partnerships are developed with other local childminders. The group share good practice and ideas. They also regularly meet up for children to play together or become involved in special events like day trips and mini sports day. In addition, the child minder is a member of a national early year’s organisation which helps her to promote the best possible outcomes for children.

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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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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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)
	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)
Introduce more real life and and natural resources to further enhance children's play experience.

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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