



## Inspection Report

**Sarah Michael**

**Neath**



**Date Inspection Completed**

24/08/2021

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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	8 May 2015
Is this a Flying Start service?	NoNo
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**

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic, therefore we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework. The child minder had not been minding for a number of years but has recently recommenced her child minding business.

Overall children feel secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. They have positive relationships with the child minder. There is a caring atmosphere and the child minder meets children's needs successfully.

Children receive care in a secure environment, although improvements are needed to the risk assessments. There is space and facilities which encourage children to play and learn both indoors and out. Toys and play equipment are age appropriate and in good condition.

The childminder has policies and risk assessments in place, although some improvements are needed in these areas. Overall, the child minder manages the setting sufficiently. She has satisfactory partnership working with parents.

We, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) have identified two areas for improvements in relation to the statement of purpose and risk assessments and we have made five recommendations at the end of this report.

## Well-being

Children have a good voice. They play freely and express themselves well. Children choose toys and activities from the selection available, which are stored at child height. We saw them choose to play with trains, cars and enjoy the drawing boards.

Children feel safe, happy and valued. They are settled and content. Children cuddled the child minder for reassurance on our arrival and confidently explored their environment.

Children interact successfully. Children included us and the child minder in their play. They clapped hands when they successfully identified the characters on the shape sorter and attempted to mimic the sounds of animals.

Children confidently choose activities that interest them. They enjoy their play and learning. We saw a child choose to play with the role play kitchen. Children have opportunities to take part in free play activities, both indoors and outdoors.

Children are developing their independence skills well, enabling them to do things for themselves. We saw children jump on the trampoline and were encouraged to help themselves to their drink.

## Care and Development

The child minder has adequate policies and procedures in place, which promote children's health, safety and well-being, although most have not been updated. The child minder has procedures in place to safeguard children, she has attended a recent child protection course and answered a safeguarding scenario. The safeguarding policy includes key information, although it has not been updated to reflect the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. She holds a current first aid certificate.

The child minder promotes children's health successfully. She has relevant forms to record their medical requirements, dietary needs and any allergies. Appropriate parental permissions are in place, including emergency medical treatment. She keeps records such as accident/incident and medication administration. Relatively good hygiene practices are in place. For example, she encourages children to wash their own hands, however, does not ensure that they have separate towels or paper towels to dry their hands. Equipment and resources are clean. The child minder provides a variety of meal choices agreed by parents.

The child minder promotes positive behaviour. For example, we heard the child minder remind the children to be careful with the toys, to not stand on them or throw them and we heard her saying "*clever boy*" and "*you can do it*". The child minder interacts well with the children. She engages well, whilst promoting their learning. For example, whilst completing a shape sorter activity, the children minder said, "*what noise does the tiger do?*" and praised the child for mimicking a roar. The child minder clapped her hands when the child tidied up the toys. The child minder promotes basic Welsh language.

The child minder is generally aware of the children's individual development, however, told us that she tends to follow children's interests rather than a daily plan. Parents receive information through a variety of methods such as text messages and verbally.

## Environment

Overall, the child minder ensures the environment is generally safe, secure and well maintained. The child minder completes basic risk assessments, however, did not identify all risks such as the artificial grass, walkway to the outdoor area and dog area. There was no risk assessment for the bathroom. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. The child minder practises regular fire drills and records when the smoke alarms are checked. The main entrance is kept locked and the rear outdoor area is secure.

The child minder's premises is bright, welcoming and child friendly. The resources, furniture and equipment are age appropriate, and suitable for use. They are accessible to the children as they are stored at a low level. The child minder keeps her premises suitably clean and maintained at an appropriate temperature.

The child minder has developed the outdoor area, recently purchasing new equipment and upgrading the flooring. She uses the secure garden as often as possible, as it is now suitable to use in all weathers. The child minder provides children with good opportunities for indoor and outdoor space. She also promotes diversity through the resources and activities available to the children. For example, dressing up clothes and festivals.

## Leadership and Management

The child minder generally runs her service well, she keeps nearly all the required records. She has a statement of purpose, which mainly describes the service she offers. However, it does not contain information about the new family pet dog and refers to CSSIW and CSIW. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. The child minder has records in relation to children's information, permissions, contracts and registers. However, some sections of the forms did not have signatures where required. She has up to date certificates for insurances, vehicle used to transport children and service checks. All adult household members have the required checks, however, the child minder must ensure that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates are re-newed in a timely manner.

The child minder has an adequate range of policies, although some need updating, for example, they refer to CSSIW and most are not dated for review purposes. Although she told us that she has a confidentiality policy, it was not made available for inspection.

The child minder reviews and evaluates her service adequately. She has provided her most recent quality of care report dated January 2021. However, as she has only recently returned to child minding after a period of not working, she has not had the opportunity to fully review her service and seek the views of parents and children.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal and written communication and use of a private text messages.



## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1. Ensure that all policies and procedures are up to date and current.

R2. Improve hygiene procedures by using separate hand towels or paper towels to dry hands.

R3. Ensure that all parts of the children's forms are signed where required.

R4. Ensure that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates are renewed in a timely manner.

R5. Fully review the service and produce an effective quality of care report.

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved**

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved**

None	
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**Areas where priority action is required**

Statement of purpose is not fully compliant and has not been reviewed.	Regulation 15 (4) (a) Regulation 15 (1) (a)
Risk assessments are not fully effective.	Regulation 25 (a) Regulation 25 (a)

We found poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's wellbeing. Therefore, we have issued a priority action notice and expect the provider to take immediate steps to address this and make improvements.

**Areas where improvement is required**

None	
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