



Inspection Report

Michelle MacDonald

Ruthin



Date Inspection Completed

25/01/2024

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

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

Summary

Children are settled and really enjoy their time at the setting. They have a good range of interesting activities that ensure they stay busy. Children are confident and make their needs known. They are independent and have plenty of choice about their play and care.

The child minder knows how to keep children safe and healthy and has recently reviewed policies and procedures. She implements these well and provides warm, responsive care. She supports and manages interactions highly positively and in an engaging way. She is committed to improving her skills by attending numerous training courses highly effectively.

The child minder ensures the environment is clean and well maintained. It provides children with an opportunity to develop their curiosity as there is something exciting to be found around every corner. She has developed risk assessments to support her to keep the children safe. She ensures there is sufficient space and excellent facilities for children to play and receive care.

The child minder is extremely keen to develop her setting and runs her service well. She has recently made many improvements to her garden to ensure children have exciting play opportunities. She provides a flexible service for parents and overall, implements her statement of purpose well. She has good partnerships with parents who are pleased with her service. The child minder takes children on outings in the local area and further afield so they can learn more about the world around them.

Children are confident to communicate because they know their opinions are respected. They have freedom to choose play activities and their choices are supported by the child minder. Children are confident to express themselves in their home language and make their opinions known through verbal and non-verbal gestures. They know they will be listened to and are confident the child minder will understand and help to get what they need.

Children, even new additions, are settled and busy at the setting. They chatter happily to the child minder and smile as they enjoy water play outside. They have lots of praise for helping to find a slipper or trying a different food. Children readily seek out affection and support from the child minder, by having cuddles when they awake from a nap or seeking reassurance before going happily to play. This shows they are very comfortable in her care.

Children interact well and are respectful of the needs of other children. They are learning about simple rules such as tidying toys away when they are finished. Children are starting to be considerate of the wishes and feelings of others. We saw them being quiet when one child was asleep. They are starting to take turns with toys and follow their own interests happily. They enjoy each other's company and although young are trying to be kind to each other. They understand the expectations of behaviour as the child minder gives gentle reminders such as sitting still at the table.

Children clearly enjoy their time at the setting and are active and curious learners. They engage in activities that they are interested in for an appropriate length of time. They have time for uninterrupted play and persevere to complete tasks such as playing in the water outdoors. They are developing skills and building their independence well.

The child minder is confident in her role. She ensures children's health and well-being is promoted well. There is a safeguarding policy in place and the child minder knows what to do if she has any concerns about the children. The child minder promotes healthy lifestyles and provides the children with nutritious meals and snacks. There are healthy alternatives too. The child minder's accident, incident and medication records show that they are well completed. Fire drills are practised regularly and are recorded appropriately to evidence they are aware of the procedure to follow in an emergency. Children go outdoors each day, and the child minder encourages physical activity, in the garden and walks to and from school.

The child minder manages children's behaviour exceptionally well. There is a behaviour management policy in place, which identifies positive methods to manage children's interactions. The child minder is sensitive and caring to individual needs and provides children with clear boundaries within her home. She is consistent in her approach and shows great respect for individual children and their age and stage of development. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

The child minder provides a caring environment and is responsive to children's needs. She has a good understanding of the needs and preferences of the children in her care. The child minder has an excellent system in place to monitor children's developmental milestones and she has an effective understanding of the progress they are making. The child minder plans for an exceptionally interesting range of play and learning experiences. These support them to develop essential speech and language skills also in Welsh, as well as other fine motor skills. She provides activities that reflect diverse cultural and seasonal celebrations. The child minder provides excellent opportunities for children to hear and use the Welsh language by using a high level of Welsh throughout the day. She takes the children on frequent trips out, such as to local attractions, soft play centres and parks, as well as to cafes and the beach.

Environment**Excellent**

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and secure. She has effective written risk assessments in place, which cover outings to different places within the locality and she spoke confidently about keeping children safe when off the premises. There are safety precautions in place, such as safety gates and external doors are locked. The child minder requires visitors to sign in. She ensures that the premises are maintained appropriately by ensuring the heating system is serviced annually.

The child minder ensures the space for the children downstairs is an exceptional mix of homely and child friendly resources, inspiring curiosity with something different and exciting around every corner both inside and outside. There is comfortable seating for relaxation and stories and a low table and chairs for table-top activities. Children eat meals at the large family table which gives important socialisation opportunities. Another room is used for quieter activities and children can relax and have a nap or sleep in a pushchair in the hall. The rear garden has been made into an exciting place to play.

The child minder has a good variety of toys, games, and books, suitable for all age ranges. The resources are of high quality and include real life items for the children's play. The child minder stores many resources at low level which can be easily accessed by children. This allows even very young children to be independent and choose what they would like to play with. There is plenty of space for them to move freely, be active and have quiet, relaxing times. The rear garden has been changed to incorporate current thinking and has different areas for the children to play. The spaces allow for the development of a range of skills such as planting, balancing, measuring and pouring which fill the children with a sense of awe and wonder.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder is always committed to improving her standard of leadership and practice, so she can fulfil her vision for her setting. The child minder has a statement of purpose that outlines what the setting provides, allowing parents to make an informed choice about whether it meets their needs and those of their child. She has developed a good range of policies and procedures, which reflect the provision offered.

The child minder monitors the quality of the setting well. She regularly seeks the views of children and parents, using this information to evaluate the setting on an annual basis. The child minder keeps up to date with best practice and the need to refresh her mandatory training and skills regularly. She has established links within the community and seeks support from other professionals as required. The child minder is highly receptive to advice and keen to make improvements to the setting. Recommendations from the inspection have been actioned. There have been changes within the garden with lots of new resources making it an exciting place to play.

The child minder organises her day well, to meet the differing needs of the children she cares for. She ensures all mandatory training such as paediatric first aid and child protection is regularly updated. The child minder is keen to develop and learn all she can and undertakes a wealth of training to support her in her role. All household members' disclosure and barring service checks (DBS) are up to date.

The child minder understands the importance of working in partnership with parents to ensure children receive the support required to meet their individual needs. She gathers a good level of information about children's preferences and routines before they start. The child minder keeps all parents suitably informed via secure social media, verbal and written information. The child minder described the useful relationship she has with other professionals to support her service and the families and children she cares for.

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

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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