



## Inspection Report

**Denise Pyke**

**Swansea**



**Date Inspection Completed**

26/10/2023

## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	15 September 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No, but flying start spaces are offered.
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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

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

## **Summary**

Children are excellent communicators and thoroughly enjoy their time with the child minder. They are curious learners, consistently making choices about what they do and how they spend their time with her. Children engage in purposeful play-based activities and are confident the child minder will listen to them.

The child minder provides a warm and nurturing child-centred setting. She has an exceptional understanding of children's individual needs and their development, and she plans inclusively. The child minder promotes excellent outcomes for children through her current knowledge and skills and through her dedication to those in her care.

The child minder's home is clean, safe and secure. The play area is welcoming and friendly and provides a rich environment for play and learning. The child minder provides an array of excellent resources and equipment which meet the needs of the children. The child minder identifies any unnecessary risks to children and eliminates them as much as possible.

The child minder is highly motivated and committed and clearly enjoys her role. Her vision and sense of purpose sustains improvement and promotes excellent outcomes for children. The child minder maintains the required records to a very high standard and has excellent organisational skills. She has meaningful partnerships with other professionals and parents who speak very highly of her.

Children are excellent communicators and have a very strong voice, confidently making their own choices about what they want to do and where they want to play. For example, on the day of the inspection visit, the children asked to go to the woods and the child minder met their requests. Children express themselves confidently and know they will be listened to. For example, they choose when they want to eat and when they want to take part in a directed activity. Children's opinions and interests are highly valued, they remember activities and tasks from previous sessions and go back to play again when they return. For example, the children showed me a muddy puddle they had made last week and returned to it enthusiastically.

Children are relaxed and settled in the child minder's care. They know she respects their feelings and concerns. Children benefit from her consistency, and this means they are building positive bonds of affection with her as they receive lots of attention and praise. Children clearly have a strong sense of belonging and are forming strong relationships. They are very familiar with the routines and the environment. For example, whilst playing in the woods, the children knew when to stay close to the child minder and when they could move away, they were confident with the boundaries and what was expected of them.

Children's interactions are extremely positive. They are forming authentic relationships; talking to one another and engaging with one another in play. For example, two children excitedly played with the bubbles together, and took it in turns blowing the bubbles into the air and running into them to make them pop. They were laughing and giggling hysterically.

Children are very curious learners and are extremely motivated and engaged in their play and learning. For example, children were immersed in the treasure activity for an extended period of time and enjoyed showing the child minder everything they had found and talking about the different objects. Children thoroughly enjoy using their imaginations and take part in activities confidently and feel a sense of achievement. They are excited to talk about what they have been doing and enjoy telling us about their experiences.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills. They are encouraged to eat independently, wash their hands and change their clothing with support if needed. Children are encouraged to be independent through a wide variety of purposeful activities, and to assess certain risks for themselves. For example, the children were encouraged to think about their safety before climbing trees and they independently decided the stream was too deep for them to splash in. Children make excellent progress and are confident to try new activities.

## Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder has an excellent understanding of her roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and protecting them. She implements her safeguarding procedures throughout her practice, and she is confident about what to do if she had any child protection concerns. In preparing for an outing, the child minder ensures she has a first kit as well as soap and sanitiser. She also carries the children's medical details and contacts with her in case of an emergency. The child minder consistently reminds children about washing their hands, including when they are out in their local area. She explains the importance of keeping their hands clean to them so that the children know what is expected of them and why. The child minder completes thorough risk assessments when they arrive at the woods. For example, she ensures the toilets are clean before the children use them, and she inspects the bench area to ensure it is clean and free from hazards before the children sit down.

The child minder is an excellent role model, she interacts positively with the children and fosters strong bonds of affection with them. She consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies and children's behaviour is exemplary. Children follow the child minder's instructions well and happily share the resources with each other. For example, when one child wanted to have a go with feathers, the other child shared without hesitation. The child minder speaks softly to the children and always uses positive reinforcement. Her interactions are consistently engaging, and she is very warm and kind towards the children. She frequently offers praise and encouragement, and prompts '*please*' and '*thank you*' when appropriate. There was lots of laughter and chatter as children ran around the woods together, enjoying their play and laughing along with the child minder.

The child minder is highly motivated and committed to ensuring the children are at the centre of their own learning and development. She frequently supports their choices and allows them endless opportunities to explore and extend their own play by experimenting and following their own interests. Children have an excellent range of opportunities to engage in self-directed play as well as directed activities. For example, children were engrossed in a 'tap the box' activity and thoroughly enjoyed searching for treasure with each other and the child minder. The child minder knows the children extremely well and she goes above and beyond to ensure she provides an inclusive learning experience for them. The children's developmental records are meticulous and an important tool in supporting children and ensuring their individual needs are met. The child minder engages with other professionals when a child needs additional support, and she supports every child in their preferred way of learning. The child minder promotes the Welsh language well in the setting using bilingual resources. She consistently uses Welsh throughout the session and is committed to developing her Welsh language skills through training.

**Environment****Excellent**

The child minder has excellent systems in place to ensure the environment is kept safe and secure for children. The environment is extremely well maintained, and the child minder is committed to continually making improvements to meet the needs of the children. She keeps a record of visitors to the property and has comprehensive risk assessments in all areas used for child minding. They are thorough, completed frequently and are of a very high standard. The child minder implements new risk assessments promptly when she identifies potential hazards. The child minder regularly carries out safety checks and implements effective cleaning routines that reflect excellent infection control practices.

The child minder provides a stimulating and spacious play area for the children to enjoy and explore their environment. She ensures it is warm and welcoming, and the children have an area to hang their coats and bags which means they have a strong sense of belonging and feel valued in the child minder's home. There are lots of pictures of the children on the walls as well as various meaningful displays. The child minder ensures children have the freedom to explore safely in the child minder's home. They are encouraged to move freely and choose what they want to do and where they want to play. Although the outdoor area is currently not in use due to renovation work, the child minder ensures children have exceptional opportunities to experience outdoor play. She has extensive plans in place for the outdoor area which is already taking shape. There is a new decked area which will be covered with a canopy to allow children to have an area of shade and shelter when outdoors. The child minder also plans to incorporate a sensory room within the outdoor area to extend children's learning further.

The child minder provides a wide range of high-quality furniture and resources that are suitable for the developmental needs of all the children. Children have access to a diverse range of play opportunities including role play and forest school experiences. There are child sized tables and chairs as well as a larger comfortable sofa for the children to sit and rest. There is a diverse selection of resources which include construction toys, craft resources including messy play activities, vehicles, small world resources, games, jigsaws and books. Resources are plentiful and in excellent condition. She provides authentic resources for children to explore and develop their curiosity but is knowledgeable about managing risks and supporting the children to make their own choices. For example, the children are able to explore pinecones, pots, pans, tins and corks. The children benefit from an environment that meets their needs and allows them to develop their own learning journeys.

## Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder has an excellent vision that she communicates effectively. Her statement of purpose is very comprehensive and fully informs parents and carers of the service she provides. The child minder creates a positive ethos and strives to promote excellent outcomes for children. She aims to achieve extremely high standards and provides valuable learning and development opportunities for the children. The child minder is very well organised and ensures she provides an inclusive service which means that every child feels valued and important. She maintains all the required documents to an extremely high standard, and regularly reviews her paperwork to ensure that it is relevant and up to date.

The child minder places great importance on self-evaluation and improvement. She is extremely approachable and implements effective systems to ensure her reflections are meaningful. The child minder's quality of care report is excellent. It is well-written and successfully highlights her strengths. The child minder also identifies areas she would like to build on, some of which she has started to implement since completing her review. For example, the child minder has started the work to develop her outdoor area further.

The child minder manages her business successfully, she is enthusiastic and extremely motivated. 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 responsibilities to maintain her own professional development. She has undertaken extensive training opportunities and is committed to further development to promote positive outcomes for children. The child minder actively embeds her knowledge into her practice, by supporting the children and meeting their individual needs.

The child minder has developed excellent partnerships with parents and carers as well as other professionals. She is committed to working together to promote the children's well-being. The child minder ensures her communication systems are inclusive and meaningful. Feedback from parents is very positive and includes comments such as, *"Deni has had a massive hand in helping shape our child into who she is today."* *"We are forever grateful to Deni!"* *"Deni's care, guidance, support and tutelage is beyond compare!"* *"We couldn't have wished for a better child minder!"* The child minder has excellent links with the local schools and works with them to ensure smooth transitions and excellent outcomes for children.

### 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
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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
<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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