



Inspection Report

Sara Blackley

Bassaleg



Date Inspection Completed

07/09/2021

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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	26 June 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service 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 the service.

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have therefore focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are happy and settled at the service. They have warm and supportive relationships with the child minder and assistant and they very much enjoy the time they spend at their home. They are able to make choices about their play and are beginning to develop their independence. Children form close bonds with the child minder and other children at the setting, making them feel safe and secure.

The child minder and assistant understand their responsibilities to keep children safe and they provide supportive and nurturing care. There are systems in place to record children's progress.

The home is spacious and suitable for the needs of children who attend. It is safe and secure and there are appropriate safety checks to ensure children's welfare. An appropriate range toys and resources promote children's all round development. The children enjoy regular visits to the local park.

The child minder manages the setting appropriately. She has suitable policies, procedures, records and safety checks completed. Some improvements are required in line with employing an assistant. Parents are very complimentary of the childminder and her assistant.

Well-being

Children make choices and very much enjoy the time they spend at the child minder's home. They are confident children who speak up and make their needs and wishes known. They have consistent opportunities to follow their play interests and to make decisions and choices about what they like to do. Most children are able to confidently communicate verbally but some use non-verbal methods such as pointing, to show the childminder what they want and like.

Children are happy and familiar with the home and are comfortable with the routines of the setting. They are confident to move around the home independently, selecting toys and resources of their choosing, assisted by the child minder and assistant when necessary. They follow their interests and are supported effectively by the child minder and assistant so that they gain as much as possible from their play opportunities. They are forming positive bonds of attachment with the child minder and assistant and enjoy their involvement in their play. They are relaxed and comfortable in their presence, approach them for cuddles and reassurance and receive encouragement and praise to support their confidence and well-being.

Children benefit from an ample selection of play and learning opportunities suitable for their age and stage of development. They enjoy playing with small toys and have opportunities for outdoor play. There are regular trips to the park and other outdoor areas to extend children's social experiences. Prior to the pandemic, there were trips to soft play centres and playgroups.

Children have opportunities to develop new skills and become independent in line with their age and stage of development. They are given time and space to select their own toys and follow their own interests, supported by the child minder and assistant when required. We saw a young child show confidence in looking through storage drawers, picking out toys without assistance and showing his friends what he had chosen.

Care and Development

The child minder has the appropriate information to keep children safe. She implements suitable measures to reduce risks associated with Covid 19, in line with Welsh Government guidance. She has policies and risk assessments to guide her actions. However, the policies are not dated when written and reviewed. Non-essential visitors do not enter the premises. She has up to date training in safeguarding children and has an understanding of procedures to follow should there be any concerns. Risks are identified, and as far as possible minimised and the child minder has put in place suitable arrangements to reduce hazards to children in her care. The child minder practises fire evacuation drills at suitable intervals and maintains records of these events. The childminder and assistant both have current paediatric first aid certificates and are able to deal with minor issues should they arise.

The child minder and assistant manage children's behaviour effectively. They do this by treating children kindly and respectfully resulting in a calm atmosphere. They communicate in a soft and quiet manner, giving positive eye contact when supporting children and this gives them confidence and a sense of belonging. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy in place, and the strategies outlined are age appropriate. Children understand what is expected of them, as care routines are consistent.

The childminder has created a home from home environment for the children. She meets the needs of individual children and she knows them very well. Children experience a variety of activities and they spend a lot of time outdoors at the local park or on walks of the local area. The child minder completes developmental trackers for each child. We saw that the Foundation Phase Compact Profile had been completed with a baseline assessment for individual children.

Environment

The child minder provides a suitable environment for children. The front door is locked to restrict entry to the premises, and a record is maintained of all visitors, although no visitors are permitted currently. The house is clean and tidy and the childminder told us there are plans to refresh the decoration. Registers record the times that children arrive and leave the setting. The childminder completes safety checks to identify and where possible eliminate any risks to children's safety. Safety certificates and annual safety checks of appliances in the setting, such as gas boiler, are up to date. There is a Covid-19 policy and risk assessment in place to keep everyone safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The childminder provides sufficient room to play. She has a designated play room for the children to access. Children have access to a comfortable lounge where they can rest or sleep. All toys and resources are stored on open shelves or in drawers that children can access independently. We saw children choosing to play with the princess carriage which they collected independently. Resources are all of a good quality, are well maintained and are suitable for the stage of the children's development.

The garden provides a rich environment for children to play and learn. This area is easily accessed and is used regularly for active play, however we did not see any outdoor play during the inspection as the play equipment was being updated. There is a good range of play resources for all ages such as a play house and a new wooden play centre.

Leadership and Management

The child minder manages her service well and has a good understanding of her role. There is a clear statement of purpose providing parents with accurate information about how the service runs. She has the required policies and procedures in place and these are updated regularly. There are disclosure and barring check certificates for herself and her husband, who is her assistant. The childminder and assistant attend mandatory training, such as first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene.

The child minder is committed to improving her service and regularly asks for feedback from parents by sending out questionnaires. She provides an annual quality of care report which includes the views of all those who use her service. The information received demonstrates very positive views and the service is highly recommended to others. She has recently completed the Self-Assessment Service Statement (SASS) via CIW Online.

The childminder and her assistant work well together. The childminder keeps a formal record of the assistant's training needs. These are not kept in one formal file specific to the assistant. An annual appraisal and 'on the go' supervisions are undertaken, however these are not formally recorded. This is an area that requires improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion.

Communication with parents is good. The child minder and her assistant have positive relationships with parents and feedback we received from parents reflected a high degree of satisfaction with the service. Parents spoke highly of the care their children receive at the setting. Parents commented that the childminder keeps them up to date with information regarding the service and she is very open and honest with them. Parents told us that the childminder communicates with them using a number of methods such as verbally, through group and individual text messages and through a closed Facebook page.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Formalise a staff file for childminding assistant

R2. Ensure policies are dated when written and reviewed

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

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

No formal supervision notes for childminding assistant.	Regulation 29 (3) (a)
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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