



## Inspection Report

**Robert Cooper**

**Ruabon**



**Date Inspection Completed**

24/08/2021

**Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2021.**

*You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)*  
*You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.*

## About the service

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Type of care provided                                      | Child Minder  |
| Registered places  | 4   |
| Language of the service                                    | English   |
| Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection                | 23/03/2017  |
| Is this a Flying Start service?                            | No  |
| Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer? | No<br>This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. However, the child minder uses basic Welsh with children and is intending to extend his use of the Welsh language. |

## **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.

Children are happy at this service because they are respected and busy with a range of activities. They are able to make choices and decisions and their interests are valued. They are safe, interact well and learn to do things for themselves.

The child minder cares for the children well and gives their safety priority. He manages children's behaviour kindly and fairly. He is experienced and provides activities to help children develop.

The environment is safe and set out with plenty of activities and areas of play and learning to develop children's skills. The indoor and outdoor spaces are suitable for children. There are plenty of toys and games, which are in good condition, to assist with children's development.

The child minder has made good progress establishing and improving his child minding service. He is committed to make improvements to benefit children and their families. The child minder has formed successful and strong partnerships with parents, which helps children feel settled and their families supported. Parents are very happy with the service they receive.

## Well-being

Children have a voice and are able to influence their care. They are able to make choices and their interests are valued. Children helped themselves to scooters, ride on cars, see saw and chose which picture to colour. Children are listened to and a young child was given cuddles when they reached out their arms, making them feel safe and secure. They are confident and express themselves effectively to the child minder and us.

Children form strong bonds with the child minder who provides warm care. Children happily approach the child minder for cuddles and chats. Parents told us their children have settled very well and they greatly enjoy attending the service. Children are content, and have formed relationships with the child minder and other children. Older children were happy to chat with us and asked if they were going for a walk later.

Children interact well with the child minder and other children. They share resources such as pencils and crayons and are making friends. Children display resilience and co-operate when asked to bring their drinks inside after a period of outdoor play.

Some children understand the needs of others, for example we saw an older child helping younger ones to play on the see saw. It was a delight to see children co-operating and negotiating with each other. Parents told us that they are happy that their children are learning social skills.

Children are interested and engaged in their play. We observed children enjoying activities such as playing with building blocks. Children have opportunities to do things for themselves. They choose toys and activities, and go to the toilet independently.

## Care and Development

The child minder keeps children safe and healthy. He implements effective policies and procedures, and has reviewed the service and care in line with guidance related to the Covid 19 pandemic. The child minder has up-to-date training in child protection and first aid and provides opportunities for children to participate in regular periods of exercise outdoors. The child minder is able to talk confidently about safeguarding and the correct procedures to follow should he be concerned about a child. He provides healthy meals and snacks most of the time and has agreed to consider the Welsh Government's guidance on food and nutrition in order to continue to make improvements.

The child minder is very engaged with children and supports them to manage their behaviour and boost children's self-esteem. He gives them lots of praise, for example, for speaking quietly when a child is asleep. The child minder is a good role model and this is reflected in the politeness of the children.

The child minder knows the children's skills and preferences well and is aware of the Welsh Foundation Phase curriculum. The child minder knows the children's strengths, needs and likes and ensures that he meets children's needs such as avoiding foods if a child has an allergy. Parents told us their children have developed well since being cared for by this child minder. Children's development is seen in their progress book which is given to parents at the end of the year. Parents said they are happy and grateful the child minder goes beyond their expectations. Basic Welsh is used at times and the child minder is hoping to resume Welsh language lessons when they become available, so that Welsh can be used more regularly.

## Environment

The environment is secure, clean and well maintained, which provides a safe and comfortable place for children to relax and learn. The child minder is developing a good environment to enhance children's experiences. He has made improvements to some areas, including outdoors. The child minder has identified risks and has taken steps to minimise or eliminate them, for example, the front door is kept locked and the rear garden is enclosed. Children know how to evacuate the premises safely because regular fire drills are completed. However, there is no separate fire risk assessment as recommended by Welsh Government guidance, recently published.

The premises are suitable for childcare. In the playroom, toys are stored at child height enabling them to help themselves. The resources, toys and books are suitable, including toys for toddlers. The outdoor area, which includes a patio and a grassed area with ride on toys and a storage shed, is a place where children enjoy playing. The child minder provides suitable furniture for the children, including small chairs and tables. The resources, which are suited to the age of the children, are in good, clean condition. For example, building blocks, craft materials and toddler toys.

## Leadership and Management

The child minder is experienced and has knowledge about current childcare practices and this is set out in the Statement of Purpose, which is reader friendly. Observations during the inspection evidenced that the child minder meets the needs of children and their families. A parent confirmed that plenty of information is given to them. This helps parents make an informed choice about the kind of childcare they need. Parents told us the child minder is flexible and very reliable and they would recommend him to others.

The child minder effectively evaluates the service annually and parents have been asked for their views using questionnaires. Strengths and areas for improvement are identified in the Annual Review of the Quality of Care and the child minder is looking for ways to improve the service for the benefit of children. This has resulted in changes to the outdoor areas for play so that they enhance the outdoor opportunities for children. There are long-term plans for improvement, which include an additional area for children to play outside under cover.

The child minder manages the service well, and gives children and parents time, as the daily attendance register evidenced low numbers attending. Mandatory training and DBS checks are current and the child minder plans ahead, for example, booking training. This ensures the child minder has up to date information on how to provide a suitable learning and caring environment for children.

Relationships with parents are positive and contribute to the well-being of children, as parents are able to tell the child minder what their children have particularly enjoyed. The child minder has effective communications with parents, which reflect how important he considers partnership with the parents to be. A parent told us they have nothing but praise for the child minder. He communicates well with parents including phoning or sending texts with photos to keep parents informed during the day.



## Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

**R1** to consider the Food and Nutrition for Childcare document on the Welsh Government website.

**R2** to complete a separate fire risk assessment.

**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 |  |
|------|--|

**Areas where priority action is required**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| None |  |
|------|--|

**Areas where improvement is required**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| None |  |
|------|--|

**Date Published** 20/09/2021