



Inspection Report

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Abergavenny



Date Inspection Completed

25/11/2022

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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	20 January 2021
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 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>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children of all ages are happy and relaxed in the care of this child minder. They form good relationships with the child minder and with other children. They have good opportunities to make choices and do a range of activities. They are confident they will be listened to and valued.

The child minder is kind and caring and supports children well to develop their individual skills. The child minder encourages children to have a healthy lifestyle and uses positive behaviour strategies.

The child minder provides a good environment for children's play, indoors and outdoors. The layout of the environment supports children to be independent and allows them to explore freely and develop their play. There is a wide range of good quality resources for differing stages of development and preferences.

The child minder manages the service appropriately. She made some changes following our visit to ensure that attendance records, accident and incident records and policies are in line with regulations and national minimum standards.

Well-being

Good

Children are happy and relaxed at this service. Children of different ages chat to the child minder happily, sharing their news and asking questions. Children have a sense of belonging and are familiar with the routines. Children's feelings, needs, likes and dislikes are considered appropriate and they are fond of the childminder. Children arrive happy at the setting and move around with confidence.

Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. They choose the activities they want to play and whether they want to play indoors or outdoors. Children are confident that their ideas are listened to and acted upon. For example, a child wanted to play with the balls and the hoop, so the childminder got them out for them to play with and joined in with their play. Children interact with each other, and the childminder very well. Overall they play nicely together, say 'please' and 'thank you', and listen well to the child minder. They show kindness to others. For example, when the child minder said that a child needed a bit of help to reach a ball, another child immediately helped. Children are learning the importance of sharing, taking turns and cooperating with others. They play happily together.

Children enjoy a good range of interesting play opportunities, indoors and outdoors, and can choose to relax and have quiet times. Children of all ages complete activities that are suitable for their age, stage of development and preferences. For example, younger children take part in role play and sensory activities and older children complete more technical construction and craft activities. Children are learning how to do things for themselves including problem solving in their play, helping to tidy away the toys after activities, cleaning their hands and taking their shoes and coats off. They do this independently with some help and direction by the child minder when needed.

Care and Development

Good

Overall, the child minder follows good procedures in relation to keeping children safe. The child minder actively promotes a healthy lifestyle. She takes children out daily on her farm land and encourages very regular outdoor play and physical activities. She provides healthy snacks and encourages them to drink water. The child minder keeps the children safe by giving them safety reminders when necessary and supervising them well. She completes regular training in safeguarding, paediatric first aid and food hygiene. The child minder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities in relation to child protection and she updated her safeguarding policy following our visit, so that it now contains all relevant information.

The child minder's interactions with children are very positive demonstrating warmth and kindness. She is a good role model, always speaking calmly with children. She implements a positive behaviour policy which is child-centred and takes into account children's individual needs. She praises children regularly and she gives them reminders to share and to be kind to others.

The child minder knows the children very well and is sensitive to the needs and experiences of individual children. She cuddled a child who had just woken, allowing them to wake up in their own time and she talked through older children's experiences during the evening at home. Every child has a good amount of individual attention, and she links their learning activities to their personal experiences. She completes basic observations on their development in her diary but she does not keep formal records of development and planning for the children's next steps. The child minder is committed to providing a broad range of play and learning activities. We saw children completing a wide range of interesting activities, during the visit.

Environment**Good**

The premises is welcoming, and the farm setting provides a unique experience for children. The child minder has thorough risk assessments and health and safety policies in place although these need renewing. Fire drills have started to take place since the inspection visit.

The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and ensures that children are safe and secure at her home. The premises are safe, the front door is locked at all times, however visitors are not signed in and out of the setting. The child minder has the appropriate insurances and her child minder ensured her annual heating check had been completed.

The child minder makes good use of the space available both inside and outside to enrich children's play and learning experiences. The playroom is clean and welcoming. There is sufficient space, equipment and resources to meet the children's individual needs. They can safely explore the living room where the resources and materials are stored so that children can access them independently. Children benefit from regular walks to see the horses, use outdoor play equipment and explore the fields and natural environment. Each day the child minder converts the sitting room into a large, inviting playroom providing different play opportunities and areas of learning based on children's interests and needs. There is also a dedicated, screened area in the office that provides the youngest children with a peaceful and private area to sleep when needed.

The child minder has an extensive range of resources available in the conservatory that provide great variety and choice for children. She liaises with the children when deciding on new resources to purchase. A role-play kitchen, café and shop significantly enhances children's enjoyment of imaginative play.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder provides parents with relevant information about the service. She has an up-to-date statement of purpose which is an accurate reflection of the service she provides. The child minder made some minor updates to this, following our visit, and it is now fully compliant with regulations and national minimum standards. We checked a sample of policies and some of these did not contain all the relevant information. The child minder updated these following our visit and these are now suitable.

The child minder reviews the quality of care she provides on an annual basis. She ensures that she seeks parents' and children's views as part of this review. She identifies basic plans for improvement.

The child minder ensures that she keeps most of the required records. She has established an effective system for ensuring that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, insurance, safety checks and standard training are updated regularly. However, at the time of our visit, children's files, records of attendance, records of visitors, accident records and fire drills were not compliant with regulations. The child minder updated these following our visit and is now compliant.

The child minder establishes good partnerships with parents and maintains daily communication with them verbally. However, there is a need to complete daily diaries for the under ones

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Extend systems to monitor and evaluate outcomes for children including observing and assessing progress and linking their individual next steps into more formalised activity planning.

R2. To cease the use of car seats for sleeping babies.

R3. To record fire drills.

R4. To keep a formal register of visitors and children at the service.

R5. To keep diaries for children under one.

R6. Accident forms to be used to record all accidents.

R7. To start completing daily checks again.

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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12	since the last inspection the childminder hasnt kept her record keeping up to date.	New
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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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