



# Inspection Report

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**Cardiff**



**Date Inspection Completed**

09/05/2024

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	<a href="#">9 March 2018</a>
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>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u>Care and Development</u>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u>Environment</u>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	<b>Excellent</b>

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

### **Summary**

Children are exceptionally happy, settled and make excellent progress in the child minder's home. They have formed remarkably close bonds with the childminder and as a result are extremely comfortable to communicate their needs with ease and confidence. Children express enthusiasm and enjoyment and consistently follow their own ideas and interests.

The childminder is exceedingly kind and respectful to the children and shows genuine interest in their views and opinions. She has undergone extensive training to further her knowledge of child development and as a result provides an outstanding level of support which caters for children's individual needs. The childminder is committed to providing an excellent range of play and learning activities to the children in her care.

The childminder's home is remarkably clean, welcoming, child friendly and organised so that children can access facilities and resources with ease. The indoor and outdoor areas are planned carefully and create a stimulating environment for children to freely access. There is a variety of age appropriate, developmentally challenging, and exciting play equipment that children get full use of daily.

The childminder regularly reviews and updates her excellent range of policies and procedures and uses these to support the running of her service. She effectively evaluates her service and regularly seeks suggestions from children and their parents/carers to ensure she is continually improving. The childminder shows a very strong commitment and passion to guarantee the children in her care receive an outstanding service.

**Well-being**

**Excellent**

Children are relaxed, incredibly happy, and feel safe in the child minder's care. They have lots of fun and learn new skills playing with the interesting toys and activities in her home. They frequently approach the childminder and enjoy spending time playing with her. We saw younger children who are still developing their speech, confidently lead the childminder around the garden, spraying the plants with water and pointing at the different plants growing. The children's interests are central to the activities and play opportunities made available to them. For example, children who have a keen interest in animals have been to the farm to visit them, read about them in books and completed animal themed activities.

Children settle exceptionally well in the child minders care. They confidently approach us and enthusiastically show us the different photos in a scrap book of recent days out, pointing at themselves and smiling. Children are very comfortable and familiar with the routines in the child minder's home which gives them a sense of security and belonging. We heard familiar nursery rhymes being played during snack time which the children were very keen to dance and sing along to once they had finished eating.

Children behave very well and enjoy receiving praise for good manners and being kind and helpful. They are given extensive opportunities to learn how to share and co-operate with others. Children are eager to earn stickers on their reward chart for showing skills such as taking turns, good listening and tidying up. As a result, children are extremely thoughtful and considerate of people and respectful of the home environment.

The children are particularly interested and excited by the activities at the child minder's home. They independently choose from the high-quality resources available. Children focus on a task for an appropriate length of time for their age and stage of development. For example, a younger child chooses a doll to play with, carefully feeds it a bottle and combs its hair before cuddling it in a blanket and saying "shh."

Children's self-help skills are developing extremely well. Children learn how to do things for themselves including, problem solving in their play, helping to tidy away the toys after playing and they wash and dry their hands before and after lunch and snack time. We saw a younger child responsibly use a china cup to drink out of at mealtimes, whilst supervised by the childminder. Children independently feed themselves and carefully wipe down the table after they have finished.

## Care and Development

**Excellent**

The childminder follows robust procedures to ensure she meets the health and safety needs of children. She has a suitable safeguarding policy in place and has clear procedures

for dealing with safeguarding matters. The child minder ensures she has up to date knowledge and training of first aid. This allows her to be confident in her procedures for dealing with accidents, incidents, and administration of prescribed medication and she completes these important records appropriately. A daily register of children's attendance is maintained which also notes times and details of visitors.

The child minder has meaningful risk assessments and procedures which identify, reduce, or eliminate risks where possible. Robust hygiene routines are in place to promote children's health and she encourages children to wash their hands at appropriate times. The child minder offers a good range of nutritious, freshly prepared, healthy snacks and drinks to the children which they enjoy. The child minder ensures children have access to fresh air every day by either spending time in the garden or visiting local places of interest such as farms, parks, and community allotments.

The child minder has a noticeably clear understanding of individual children's needs, abilities, and backgrounds. This helps her to plan age-appropriate activities that keep children interested and develop their skills. For example, the children have recently caught tadpoles and are now keeping them in a container in the garden so they can watch them grow. The childminder writes comprehensive daily records outlining experiences and skill development in key areas for each child which she then passes onto parents.

The childminder is an excellent role model who treats children with respect, kindness and shows genuine interest in their views and opinions. She knows the children very well and goes above and beyond to cater for their individual needs. For example, the childminder has taken basic lessons in a foreign language to support a child who speaks an alternative language when at home with their parents. We heard her use basic greetings and vocabulary in the child's home language as well as counting and saying the colours. As a result, the child was extremely receptive, smiled and eagerly answered back in response.

The childminder helps children learn about a range of cultures by celebrating festivals such as Ramadan, Chinese New Year, St Davids Day, and France's Labour Day. She plans highly effective activities to promote the cultural backgrounds of individual children in her care. For example, they planted lemon seeds to nurture into plants as part of a traditional French celebration. This ensures children feel included, valued and their individuality is celebrated.

## **Environment**

**Excellent**

The childminder follows a very clear set of procedures to ensure the environment is safe for children. Her home is very secure and provides ample space for children to play and learn. She carries out weekly fire evacuation drills, alongside fire alarm tests, and keeps accurate

records of these. Maintenance and safety checks are completed routinely for the building and appliances, including gas safety.

The child minder's home is exceptionally clean, fresh, and very well maintained. The childminder cleans toys, resources, and surfaces throughout the childminding day. The downstairs bathroom is bright, clean, and easily accessible to children whilst being extensively stocked with soap, towels, and wipes. Children have individual hand towels and are presented with a bowl and soap to wash their hands throughout the day.

The child minder organises the indoor and outdoor play environment extremely well so children can freely explore the rich outdoor garden space or choose to play with a variety of toys inside the home. Children can independently access a fantastic range of exciting, well maintained resources with ease. There is child sized furniture available both indoors and outside for children to complete tabletop activities or eat their snacks. Inside the living room there is an extensive variety of toys, including a role play market stall with fruit and vegetables. The childminder has labelled these bilingually so children can be taught the vocabulary in both English and their home language. The child minder regularly rotates the resources and books to ensure the activities on offer remain stimulating and of interest to the children in her care.

The garden has different areas that children can easily access, including a patio area with comfortable seating with the option of shelter if required and a lawn area with a variety of plants and flowers in the borders. There is an outdoor play space for children which offers a broad range of highly engaging activities which develop physical skills and imaginative play. This includes a sand pit, well-stocked playhouse, role play mud kitchen, toy car, scooter and other wheeled toys and a small slide. The childminder uses the diverse garden area to promote quality learning opportunities with children. They chat about what is growing, the birds and insects they see and enjoy spotting the decorative pebbles scattered outdoors. There are multi-cultural, natural, and Welsh resources available.

## **Leadership and Management**

**Excellent**

The child minder has a sound understanding of current best practice and shows a strong commitment to continually improve the quality of the service provided to children and parents. She has developed an excellent range of policies and procedures that set a clear vision of her childminding service. Policies are linked directly to the relevant section of the national minimum standards and supplementary research and articles are included within

her documentation. This demonstrates she has a comprehensive understanding of what is required to provide a highly effective childminding service.

The child minder has a detailed statement of purpose, which gives a clear and accurate description of the service she offers. This enables parents to make an informed decision about whether this service can meet theirs and their child's needs. The childminder agrees contracts with parents and has a suitable procedure for obtaining permissions for activities such as taking children on trips and accessing emergency medical treatment. The childminder has produced a highly effective quality of care report which represents the views of parents and children. Parents have commented on how informative it is for them and thanked the childminder for including their "child's preferences and idiosyncrasies" in the way she plans for improvement.

To safeguard children, the child minder maintains all security checks for persons over the age of sixteen years living at her home. She understands the importance of keeping up to date with best practice and the need to refresh the mandatory training. The child minder has attended a wide range of training courses which have positively impacted on the children in her care. For example, the child minder, who has completed an Early Mathematics course, talked to us about how she looks for lots of opportunities to develop mathematical skills through play. We saw children enjoy counting bilingually with the childminder throughout the day.

The childminder uses feedback from parents and children successfully to help her evaluate the quality of her service and plan for its development. She works in partnership with parents to plan for each child's individual needs and promotes excellent outcomes for children. The childminder uses several effective communication systems to keep parents up to date with their child's care, including daily verbal feedback, an incredibly detailed daily diary, and regular messages/photographs throughout the day. Parents are exceptionally complimentary about the service they received from the childminder. Some comments include how she is "one in a million" has gone "above and beyond" for their child and they have "always been impressed by the creative, fun and educational activities" the childminder has on offer.



### 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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