



Inspection Report

Lee Hicks

Pontyclun



Date Inspection Completed

06/08/2024

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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	25 October 2021
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>	Excellent
<u>Care and Development</u>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting and are very settled and happy to attend. They have a strong voice and are confident to explore, express their feelings and ask for help. Children have developed close relationships with the child minder, his wife, and other children. They eagerly take part in very many interesting activities and have worthwhile opportunities to develop their independence.

The child minder is experienced and has completed an incredibly good range of training which has given him the knowledge and skills to care for the children to a very high standard. He works seamlessly with his wife who is also a registered child minder, and they are dedicated and highly motivated. The child minder shows strong commitment and passion, ensuring that the children experience an outstanding service.

The child minder's home is inviting, secure and well-maintained. He organises areas to provide an excellent range of activities both indoors and outdoors. The child minder ensures the areas are safe by maintaining clear risk assessments and completing daily safety checklists.

The child minder runs his service alongside his wife. He maintains an effective range of policies and procedures to ensure the smooth running of the setting. The child minder continuously strives to provide a quality service and carries out an annual review of his setting to ensure he identifies any improvements required. He works closely with parents in making decisions about their child's well-being and keeping them very well informed and updated daily.

Well-being

Excellent

Children are exceptionally happy, settled and make excellent progress in the child minder's home. Their voices are strong as they know the child minder will listen to their needs and show an interest in their play. Children have formed remarkably close bonds with the child minder and his wife who understand them extremely well and treat them as individuals. Children can speak freely and are encouraged to share their ideas with the child minder who shows genuine interest in their views and opinions.

Children are relaxed 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 available. They frequently approach the child minder and his wife and enjoy spending time playing with them alongside their friends. For example, children showed real interest as they explored the weather station in the garden, measuring the rainfall and asking questions about the temperature. The children's interests are central to the activities and play opportunities made available to them. There was lots of laughter as they took part in an obstacle course that one child had set up in the garden.

Children are very comfortable and familiar with the routines of the setting which gives them a strong sense of security and belonging. For example, they look for their name to self-register themselves on arrival. They are clearly used to the expectations as they use the toilet facilities and sit at the table for mealtimes. They chat about their weekend and holidays as they eat, showing interest in what others were saying. Children confidently approach the child minder for support and younger children also easily go up to older children, who readily help them and share the resources such as helping them to use a hula hoop.

Children are building friendships and excitedly wait for their friends to arrive. They behave very well, are extremely polite and enjoy receiving praise for good manners and being kind and helpful. The children are given ample opportunities to learn how to share, take turns and listen to each other. This helps them to learn the importance of respecting each other. For example, during an activity exploring their 'feelings,' each child took turns to share how they felt and cushions with expressions helped them show this. Other children listened and were extremely attentive and considerate of each other.

Children develop a wide range of skills as they play as activities promote their all-round learning. Children are successfully learning how to do things for themselves including problem solving in their play, helping to tidy away the toys after activities and putting their shoes on. They do this independently with little help and direction required and this develops their confidence, as well as giving them a sense of pride.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder is experienced and has attended a wide range of training that supports him to be highly effective in his role. He is clear on the procedure to follow should there be any safeguarding concerns, and has a clear safeguarding policy. The child minder has a current safeguarding certificate and is aware of the need to complete more advanced training in line with the revised National Minimum Standards. The child minder follows good hygiene routines to help minimise the spread of germs, including ensuring children wash or sanitise their hands at appropriate times such as before lunch and after using the toilet. The child minder provides a varied and healthy selection of meals and snacks. He provides water frequently during the session. The child minder ensures regular opportunities to promote children's physical development enabling children to get outdoors and enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise. The child minder is confident in his procedures for dealing with accidents, incidents, and administration of prescribed medication and completes these important records forms appropriately. He keeps an accurate record of children's attendance.

The child minder is an excellent role model, is kind and delivers warm, nurturing care. He engages very positively with the children and respects what they say. There is a suitable behaviour management policy in place, promoting the use of positive strategies which the child minder implements effectively. The child minder supports children to interact with one another appropriately. He gives the children lots of positive feedback, praise, and encouragement for their efforts, promoting their self-esteem. The child minder adopts a positive, calm, and direct approach with the children, so that they understand what is expected of them. For example, he reminds children how important it is to listen when somebody is speaking. He praises children enthusiastically when they play co-operatively or show kindness and respect for their friends.

The child minder has a very good knowledge of child development and uses this knowledge to track children's developmental milestones effectively. He knows the children exceptionally well and use this knowledge to provide play opportunities and resources that he knows they will engage with and that are fun and engaging. The child minder naturally promotes children's learning as they play, modelling words and phrases back to children, counting and naming colours. He is patient and provides opportunities for children to develop their confidence and work things out for themselves. For example, supporting a child who wanted to design an obstacle course with the outside resources. The child minder provides plenty of opportunities for children to spend time taking part in activities in the local community, such as going to parks and the beach.

Environment

Good

The child minder makes sure the premises are safe and secure. For example, the front door is kept locked and side gate is always secured. He greets parents at the side entrance and keeps the gate secure. He keeps records of visitors and children are always supervised. The child minder has a robust system in place to ensure the environment is safe and this includes monthly and daily safety checks for all areas of the setting to identify potential hazards to children. In addition, there are written assessments in place for the premises and outings undertaken. The child minder practices regular fire drills to ensure that children know how to leave the premises safely in the event of an emergency. He also has a procedure in the event of any unwanted persons accessing the premises. The child minder maintains the premises to a high standard, including ensuring the gas system is serviced every year. He has suitable home, car, and public liability insurances in place.

The child minder provides welcoming, child friendly and accessible spaces for children to play and learn safely. There is a lounge with comfortable sofas for children to relax. This room also has dining facilities that are suitable for all ages who attend. The child minder sets the area up with resources to start the day and other toys and equipment are easily available for children to freely access during the day. He supervises children according to their needs as they use the upstairs toilet. The garden has several different areas that children can access, including a pergola which is set up with interesting and inviting activities. The outdoor play space offers an extraordinary quantity of highly engaging activities for children to develop their physical skills and imaginative play.

The child minder organises the indoor and outdoor play environment extremely well so children can access a fantastic range of exciting, well-maintained resources with ease. He provides a wealth of excellent quality toys and resources that appeal to children, encouraging them to play and learn. This includes, water play, games, basketball net and lots of communal games outside. There is a large quantity of multi-cultural and Welsh resources available. The child minder has processes in place to keep resources and toys good working order. He checks toys on a regular basis and if broken, they are repaired or disposed of. He ensures all toys and resources are clean to minimise the risks of cross infection.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder operates a very organised setting that meets the regulations and national minimum standards. He has a very good understanding of current best practice and shows a strong commitment to continually improve the quality of the service provided to children and parents. The child minder has developed a very good range of policies and procedures that he follows well to ensure the smooth running of the setting. The child minder has a clear vision of the child minding service. For example, details of the service he offers to parents and children are clearly outlined in the statement of purpose. He agrees contracts with parents and has a robust procedure for obtaining permissions for activities such as taking children on trips and accessing emergency medical treatment. The child minder has registered their business with the Information Commissioner's Office.

The child minder is reflective and committed to improving the service provided. He robustly evaluates his practice and completes an annual quality of care review. The report outlines strengths of the setting and sets out targets for improvement for the following year. Parent's and children's views are considered, and feedback is actively sought through questionnaires. There is a complaint procedure in place.

The child minder works with his wife who is also a registered child minder. They are clear in their roles, allocating tasks to suit their strengths and we saw that this arrangement works extremely well and enriches the experiences of the children. The child minder has an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Service certificate (DBS) via the online update service, to confirm his suitability as a registered child minder. He has an emergency plan in place, and this identifies a person that can be relied on to provide back up if required.

The child minder works closely with parents to help smooth their child's transition into his care. He requests information about the children's preferences and individual needs before they start, and updates this as needed. This ensures children continually receive a good level of care. The child minder keeps parents well informed about their child's time at his setting. He provides parents with daily photographs and verbal feedback on the well-being of their child. The child minder has developed beneficial links with other local child minders. Parents are highly complimentary about the child minder and the care their children receive. Children told us how much they enjoy going to the setting to play and meet their friends.

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.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this	N/A

	inspection	
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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
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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