



Inspection Report

Andrea Walker

Cardiff



Date Inspection Completed

20/06/2024

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2024.

*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
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	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	14 May 2018
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>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children are extremely happy, relaxed and settled at the childminder's home. They have very strong bonds of affection with the child minder and thoroughly enjoy the home-from-home ethos. Children communicate their needs and preferences with confidence and ease. They make excellent progress and are interested and curious to ask questions and explore their surroundings.

The child minder is warm, nurturing and respectful to the children. She has completed a good range of training which has given her the knowledge and skills to care for the children well. The child minder encourages curiosity through supporting children to lead their own play and learning.

The child minder's home is comfortable and welcoming. The large garden provides plenty of space for children to explore and engage in regular active play. There is an interesting variety of age appropriate toys and resources both inside and outside.

The child minder uses a good range of policies and procedures to support the running her service. She implements an organised system to improve the quality of her service. The child minder keeps parents well informed about their children and works closely with them to provide childcare that is tailored to their individual needs.

Children have a very strong sense of belonging and openly express enthusiasm for the child minder and her home. They communicate their needs confidently and politely. For example, children tell the childminder they wish to play outside rather than doing craft today. Children make decisions about how to use resources and discuss their wishes thoughtfully with the child minder. We saw children proudly show off their sandcastle and excitedly ask if there is a flag they can put in the top.

Children are extremely settled at the setting and look to the child minder for affection and reassurance in a variety of situations. Whilst cuddling up together on the tree swing seat in the garden, we heard children openly discuss heartfelt topics with the child minder who handled the conversation with warmth and sensitivity. Children are very familiar with the daily routines and take part in these confidently. They are keen to show us around and talk about their experiences. We were given a tour of the garden by a child who happily chatted to us about the types of things they like to play with.

Children behave superbly at the setting. They show an interest in other children and talk fondly about what their close friends and older siblings like to do when they are looked after by the child minder. They show great care and respect towards the child minder, the household cat and the home environment. We saw children put lids back onto pens once they finished, tidy the toys up before leaving and help water the plants and vegetables they had previously planted together.

Children are free to explore the indoor and outdoor environments and spend time on activities that interest them. We heard children enthusiastically ask questions about a noise from a vehicle in the street which led to an in-depth conversation with the child minder about recycling and different types of materials. Children are self-motivated to initiate their own play using the resources available. They play happily in the sand and on the slide and enjoy taking a doll to visit different areas of the garden.

Children are engaged in their play and focus for a considerable length of time. We saw a child focus well on using a sticker book, matching the animals to the appropriate scenery. Children are confident to do as much for themselves as possible to be independent. For example, we saw children help wash their bowls up in the sink, wash their hands and gather their belongings ready to go.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She has up to date safeguarding training and is knowledgeable about the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. The child minder has current paediatric first aid training, enabling her to deal with any accidents or emergencies which may occur. She documents accidents and communicates these to parents. However, she does not record pre-existing injuries. The child minder helps prevent the spread of germs by ensuring hands are washed before eating and after children play in the sand. She supports children to have a healthy diet by providing extra fruit and water for children who finish the food that is provided by parents / carers.

The child minder is nurturing and caring. Her gentle, relaxed nature creates an atmosphere and environment where children feel safe and secure. She interacts warmly with the children and shows interest in what they say and do. The child minder frequently offers praise and encouragement, commending children for using "*kind and gentle hands*" when they play with the doll. She fully understands child development and its impact on children's behaviour. The child minder implements effective positive behaviour management strategies and is consistent in her approach. She is a positive role model to children. We heard her say "*sorry*" when she accidentally squashed a sandcastle and offered to help build it again, which she did with the child.

The child minder plans a range of activities that are interesting and appealing to the children in her care. For example, children have planted potatoes and strawberries and have enjoyed watering them, watching them grow and finally taking them home to eat with their families. The child minder offers adult led activities however children are free to engage in other activities if they wish. We saw the child minder spending a considerable length of time playing the 'what can we see?' game which involved observing different things in the garden such as plants and flowers and is a favourite activity with the children. The child minder knows the children very well and meets their individual needs effectively. She promotes the Welsh language throughout the day and regularly celebrates different religious and world festivals.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and although the front door was not locked, she supervised the children closely. She keeps accurate records of children's attendance as well as of any visitors to the premises. The childminder conducts daily safety checks to eliminate any risks to children's health and safety. She undertakes suitable risk assessments for most areas of her home and regular outings such as soft play, the park and days out. The conservatory area is not used by children as it contains adult gym equipment. This needs to be considered when completing risk assessments of the home as children walk through this area to enter the garden. Fire drills take place every month, so children know how to evacuate in an emergency. Smoke alarms are tested at the same time. All routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are up to date. The child minder ensures that her car and public liability insurances are current.

The environment is welcoming and mostly child friendly. The child minder's home offers a comfortable indoor space for children to play and learn in. The lounge area is designed to enable children to make their own choices about what they want to play with. The child minder provides a wide variety of toys, games and equipment for different age groups and organises these well, so children can access them easily. This helps children to quickly find what they want to play with and gives them a sense of ownership over their environment. There is a dining room with table and chairs used for craft and meal times. The flat, spacious garden is a stimulating place full of interesting equipment and resources such as a slide, sand pit, tree swing and a variety of plants and flowers. We saw children explore the outdoors freely and chose to spend all their time outside. They chose to eat their lunch at the low-level chairs and table under the gazebo.

Toys and equipment are clean and in good condition. There are some resources to promote diversity and our multi-cultural society, such as dolls and books. The children minder is keen to take the children to places such the museum and library to learn about different cultures and world celebrations. There are comfortable, soft furnished places for children to relax both indoors and outdoors. We saw children cuddle into the children minder on the outdoor sofa whilst chatting about their upcoming afternoon session at nursery.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder has a good understanding of her role and regulatory responsibilities. There is a detailed statement of purpose available, which gives a clear and accurate description of the setting. This enables parents to make an informed decision about whether the setting can meet theirs and their child's needs. The child minder has well organised policies and procedures which she reviews regularly and shares with parents. Nearly all these policies are up to date and contain current guidance. However, at the time of the inspection the child minder did not have a pet policy in place and the child protection policy did not refer to the current Wales Safeguarding Procedures (2019). These things were rectified and relevant amendments made immediately after the inspection visit.

The child minder regularly seeks feedback from parents and children and uses the responses to make future improvements. She has addressed the recommendations from previous inspections and made positive changes to the setting and care provided.

The child minder maintains appropriate security checks for persons aged sixteen years and over living at her home in order to safeguard children. She understands the importance of keeping up to date with best practice and the need to refresh her training and skills regularly. She has a complaints policy in place for parents.

The child minder has developed positive relationships with parents and shares information effectively. Records provided show the child minder gathers all required information about children prior to them attending. This allows her to plan effectively and to work with families, ensuring children transition smoothly into her care. She has an effective settling in process which is modified to meet the needs of individual children and their families. Parent feedback shows they are very happy with "*fantastic care, experiences and kindness*" shown by the child minder towards their children.

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
------------	---------	--------

N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
-----	--	-----

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)
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure the front is locked when looking after minded children
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure all areas of the home are risk assessed and risks mitigated where possible

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
Record and monitor pre-existing injuries

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.

Was this report helpful?

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- [Inspection report survey](#)

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our [Feedback surveys page](#).

Date Published 25/07/2024