



Inspection Report

Karen Taylor

Penarth



Date Inspection Completed

29/04/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	11
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	27 February 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>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Adequate
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children are very relaxed and happy at this setting and feel secure and comfortable. They play freely, have fun, and express themselves well. They have a very good relationship with the child minder and her assistant. Children are actively encouraged to develop their independence skills.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring atmosphere and meets children's needs successfully. Her interactions with the children are positive demonstrating warmth and kindness. She offers a range of free play opportunities and some planned activities for children to access independently or with support.

The child minder ensures the environment is mostly safe, clean, and well maintained. The premises are homely and welcoming. The child minder provides an suitable range of resources, which provide opportunities to develop children's learning and physical skills.

The child minder is generally organised and manages her service well. She has an effective range of policies and procedures in place. Relationships with parents are positive. One area of improvement has been identified during this inspection.

Well-being**Good**

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at this setting. They have a strong voice and express themselves well. They chat away happily to the child minder and her assistant about things that interest them. They play freely and make choices about the toys and activities they play with from the selection available. For example, children thoroughly enjoyed using their imagination whilst playing in the 'den' under the table whilst others made pizza from magnetic shapes.

Children feel safe, happy, and valued. They are very settled, including new children. They clearly have good relationships with each other, the child minder and her assistant. Children feel a sense of belonging through their art work being displayed in the child minder's home. Older children told us they enjoy attending the service, making craft items and proudly showed us their art work on display. Younger children are learning to share toys with some support and encouragement. Children are familiar with the routines. For example, after lunch, children going to school, start to get ready.

Children interact positively, co-operating and learning to share with each other. During the toy gardening activity, children engaged with one another, chatting away as they selected the different colour toy flowers and shared the toy stems. Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning, they confidently choose activities that interest them. They sustain their play for an age-appropriate length of time. They are included in decision-making and have opportunities to take part in planned and free play activities. For example, a child initially declined to take part in the grass planting activity as they were doing yoga and older children decided it was 'Movie Monday' night.

Children's independence is promoted well. Most children independently change their clothes for school with little support from the adults caring for them. Older children independently help themselves to the resources on offer and independently agree which film to watch. Children confidently access toys and resources from the boxes available and most feed themselves at snack and lunchtime.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has purposeful policies in place, which promote the children's safety and well-being. She has procedures to safeguard children and both her and her assistant appropriately and confidently respond to child protection scenarios. The child minder and her assistant hold current first aid and food hygiene certificates. The child minder follows a safe procedure during the school run and ensures children are safely secured in the buggy. She provides meals/snacks and drinks, although children can bring their own lunch boxes. There are systems in place to record accidents and incidents. Hygiene practices are not always followed consistently. For example, the table and highchairs are sanitised after lunch. However, we did not see children wash their hands at anytime during the inspection, a box containing guinea pigs was placed on the table and not removed as snacks were being served and the table was not sanitised. The child minder told us that good hygiene practices are usually followed.

The child minder has an effective behaviour management policy. She uses a range of positive management strategies competently. The child minder and her assistant praise children for their good behaviour and encourage good manners. They support younger children to share appropriately, calmly reminding them to take turns or by offering an alternative toy. The child minder and her assistant are kind and show affection towards the children.

The child minder is aware of the children's individual development stages. She knows the children well and has a good understanding of each child's individual needs and routine. She confidently varies the language she uses in discussion with each child, carefully considering their age and stage of development. The child minder and her assistant engage in play with the children but are also mindful of letting the children have their own space when they are engaged with their own tasks. They support children in their free play, using these opportunities to extend their learning. For example, discuss what is tall or short and identifying colours. The child minder and her assistant make a conscious effort to use incidental Welsh.

Environment**Adequate**

The child minder ensures the environment is mostly safe and secure. The premises is homely and well maintained. The child minder has developed suitable risk assessments. However, she has not identified all potential risks and does not always date the risk assessments when she reviews them. For example, the leaning garden fence and pet dogs bedding had not been risk assessed as potential hazards. A stair gate is situated at the kitchen doorway, preventing the pet dogs accessing the play space uninvited. Young children are supervised to the toilet area. The child minder uses a book to record any visitors and identification badges are checked on arrival at the setting. The child minder completes regular fire drills and keeps appropriate records. The heating test certificate had expired, however, the child minder confirmed that a service date had been arranged. Following the inspection, the child minder provided a current heating test certificate.

The premises is welcoming and child friendly. Children have access to the living/dining room and hallway, which are bright with plenty of natural lighting. Within this space, there is a large sofa for relaxing, table and benches for craft activities and meal times and some space for floor play activities, containing accessible storage units. Children have access to a downstairs toilet which is clean and well maintained. The kitchen is used to access the rear garden and toilet. There is a suitable rear outdoor garden which provides children with regular opportunities for fresh air and physical play. Children do not have access to the first floor of the premises. The children solely used the living/dining room during the inspection. The child minder told us that children use the hallway for some quiet activities. We did not observe the children play in the hallway and garden during our visit.

The child minder provides an appropriate range of resources and equipment. She encourages children to freely explore the range of quality toys and play equipment to suit their individual needs. She regularly refreshes and renews the resources in line with what children enjoy. She makes sure that the children have access to a suitable range of equipment that suit their age and stage of development for indoor and outdoor play. For example, craft items, experimental resources, role play items and physical play items.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder is generally organised and runs her service appropriately. She engages positively with CIW and addresses any recommendations. The child minder has an up to date statement of purpose which reflects the service provided. She has an effective range of policies and procedures, which she reviews annually. The child minder ensures that children's records and documentation are accurate and complete, to include a range of permission forms such as contact with the family pet dogs. The child minder maintains a register of children and staff attendance; however, she does not always ensure that the register is updated daily. She does not record when children leave the premises when taken on the school run and by who and does not keep a record of household members present when child minding takes place. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the child minder to take action. The child minder has up to date certificates such as public liability insurance, ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) and car documentation.

The child minder reviews and reflects upon her service and produces an appropriate quality of care report. She seeks information from parents and children to support her in the evaluation of her service and their feedback is used to make improvements. Feedback provided by parents and children confirm that they are very happy with the service received.

The child minder is qualified and has completed the required training courses, such as safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene. She is committed to developing her own professional development by attending a vast range of training courses, such as language and play and child development. Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) for herself and household members aged over 16 years are valid. The child minder ensures that she has the necessary checks, records and training certificates in place for her assistant.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal and electronic messages. The childminder makes good use of her local community and environment engaging in interesting and stimulating trips which will benefit the children's development and learning. For example, visits to the parks, library and the beach. The child minder successfully works closely with other child minders in the area.

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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30	The child minder must, at all times, maintain an up to date children's attendance register and record the adults caring for them/present when child minding takes place.	New
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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)
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Ensure good hygiene practices are followed at all times.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure risk assessments include all potential risks to children's health and safety and how the risks will be reduced or eliminated.

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)
To ensure maintenance certificates are renewed in a timely manner.

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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