



Inspection Report

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Knighton



Date Inspection Completed

17/10/2024

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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	17 October 2024
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is not making a significant effort to promote the use of Welsh language and culture.

<u>Well-being</u>	Excellent
<u>Care and Development</u>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the child minder. They have an extremely strong voice and excellent opportunities to make decisions and choices about what they do and how they spend their time. Children have a strong input to planning the provision. They confidently choose resources and develop activities which interest them. They benefit from positive, warm relationships with the child minder and each other.

The child minder is responsive and caring and successfully meets children's needs. Her interactions with children are consistently high quality and she manages children's behaviour sensitively, building trusting relationships. The child minder offers a good range of free-play opportunities, particularly outdoors, and plans enhancements and outings that further support children's play and learning.

The child minder ensures her home is safe, clean, and well maintained. The premises are welcoming, homely, and well organised. The child minder provides an enabling environment both inside and outside where children can learn and develop safely whilst learning to manage risk.

The child minder has an innovative vision for her setting and manages it well. She ensures she meets regulations and national minimum standards and, overall, paperwork is organised and well-kept. The child minder develops strong partnerships with parents.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children are very happy and relaxed with the child minder. They have an extremely strong voice and make many choices about how they spend their time. Children communicate confidently. They interact constantly with each other and the child minder in ways appropriate for their age and stage of development, asking for or indicating what they want. They know the child minder will value, discuss, and, where possible, act upon their opinions, ideas, and requests. As a result, they learn to adjust their thinking and decision making, sometimes accepting that things are not possible, and they may need to consider the needs of others.

Children feel safe to explore. They are clearly happy, confident, and extremely well settled at the setting. Children benefit from a child minder who knows them very well and develop close, trusting bonds with her, her family and each other. They are very familiar with the rules and routines of the setting which helps them develop a strong sense of security and belonging.

Children behave and interact exceptionally well. They consistently listen to and follow instructions particularly where safety is a consideration, younger children play alongside each other or together as is appropriate.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. They are curious and engaged learners. They have many exciting play opportunities from which their learning is extensive and which they embrace with great enthusiasm. One child enjoyed pouring water into a spoon and feeding himself. Children's physical, social and emotional skills develop extremely well. Through their play they develop resilience and concentration and learn to manage risk and take responsibility for themselves.

Children receive encouragement to be as independent as possible and learn to do things successfully for themselves as they get older. For example, trying to feed themselves.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder has an excellent understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of appropriate child protection procedures. The child minder records all accidents and ensures she informs parents and they sign the record. She has relevant recording systems for any pre-existing injuries, incidents and any medication administered and records the times of children's attendance. The child minder follows thorough hygiene procedures in relation to food preparation and serving and nappy changing. The child minder promotes and encourages a healthy lifestyle, by encouraging healthy food choices and ensuring children spend as much time outside as possible.

The child minder consistently interacts with children extremely well. She builds a two-way relationship of trust and respect with children which enables them to develop their independence safely. The child minder is calm, patient, and responsive, acting as an excellent role model for children. She manages behaviour skilfully using explanation, reasoning and distraction.

The child minder supports children's play and learning exceptionally well. She provides a play-based setting where children can follow their own interests and lead their own play. Alongside, she loosely plans interesting and exciting activities. The child minder involves children in the planning of these experiences by asking them to give ideas of what they would like to do. She extends children's learning with open-ended questions and by posing problems for them to think about. For example, 'what vehicle is that? What colour is it?'. The child minder successfully meets the individual needs of all children including those with additional learning needs. We heard some Welsh used during our visit. The child minder further enhances children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world through trips and outings such as to local parks, playgroups and visits to other child minders in the area. She tracks and records the progress of all children.

Environment

Good

The child minding home is safe, clean and well maintained. The child minder keeps a record of visitors to the premises. Written risk assessments are in place for all aspects of the setting. The child minder effectively teaches children about risks and gives consistent messages about safety. She carries out and records monthly evacuation practises to ensure all children she looks after have opportunities to become familiar with what they need to do in an emergency.

The child minder creates a good enabling environment both inside and outside. Children have free flow use of the whole, downstairs of the house where there is space for them to move around and play. It provides a homely environment. A lounge area provides an array of comfortable sofas and chairs for children to relax, A kitchen/dining room provides further play space and a dining table where children eat meals. A toilet is accessible downstairs which supports children's independence in self-care and is in the process of being updated. Children have use of the outdoor areas. There is a secure play space attached to the house which is resourced for younger children although all children enjoy using it.

There is a wide range of toys and resources available to suit children of all ages both inside and outside. There is a range of natural resources and those that children can use flexibly and with imagination as well as more traditional toys, some of which promote cultural awareness and diversity.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder has an innovative vision for her setting and provides a high-quality service. Overall paperwork is very well organised and well-kept. She has developed a comprehensive range of policies to support the smooth and safe running of her setting and reflects current Welsh Government guidance. She provides an up-to-date Statement of Purpose that reflects the services offered and is informative for parents.

The child minder reviews the quality of her care annually and produces a report that meets regulations. She seeks the views of parents and children to inform her review and we saw many positive and excellent comments resulting from these as they reviewed the services she provides. The report offers some evaluation of her setting, and she identifies relevant areas she would like to develop.

The child minder is well qualified and ensures she keeps up to date with mandatory training such as paediatric first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene. She ensures she maintains a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for herself and any relevant household members.

The child minder develops strong partnerships with parents. She collects extensive information before children start with her to ensure she can meet their individual needs. She keeps parents informed about their children through verbal feedback, written daily diaries for younger ones and electronic messaging with individual families.

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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