



Inspection Report

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Neath



Date Inspection Completed

09/08/2024

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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	2 September 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	The service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service.

<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<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 feel safe and happy at this setting. They feel comfortable and relaxed, as they know their choices and preferences are valued. Children's interactions are positive. They enjoy their play and learning activities. Children's independence is developing well.

The child minder keeps children safe and healthy. Interactions between the child minder and children are warm and calm. The child minder ensures children have a good selection of indoor and outdoor activities. She promotes children's play, learning and development well and records children's progress.

The child minder has suitable policies and procedures in place and ensures the environment is suitably safe, secure, and well maintained. She provides a vast range of play and learning resources to ensure children have a variety of choice. Resources are of good quality and condition.

The child minder is organised and runs the setting well. She reviews her service and completes an annual quality of care report. Partnerships with parents are good.

Well-being

Good

Children have a good voice. Their choices and preferences are valued. They play freely and decide what toys and activities they would like to play with from the good selection available. Children are effective communicators and make their own decisions. For example, they confidently choose what colour paint they want to complete the craft activities and decide what dressing up clothes to wear.

Children feel safe and happy in the child minder's care. They positively engage and chatter away with the child minder, receiving nurturing and appropriate responses. Children are very settled, relaxed and feel quite at home. They display confidence with the child minder and are completely at ease with her. Children's photos are displayed in the child minder's home, promoting their sense of belonging.

Children's interactions are mainly positive. They engage well with the child minder and each other. Children mainly share toys and resources well. They respond appropriately to the child minder when she intervenes when there are minor sharing issues. They enjoy listening to the child minder asking questions about the book and respond well to her questions. Children listen to instructions from the child minder appropriately. For example, to sit properly on the chair.

Children enjoy their play and learning activities. They excitedly take part in craft activities, being creative with playdough, rolling and cutting shapes. They have suitable opportunities to initiate their own play and to influence their activities. Children can access toys that interest them and choose what to play with. Children's individual interests are taken into account and the child minder provides resources to enhance their experiences. For example, children thoroughly enjoy the craft activities, role play, outdoor play and building items from the magnetic resources.

Children's independence is developing well. They are encouraged to do as much for themselves as possible in line with their age and stage of development. Children are able to help themselves to the toys in the boxes and wash and wipe their hands independently. They eat independently with little support from the child minder.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder keeps children safe and healthy. She is confident about her responsibilities to protect children. She responds well to safeguarding scenarios and understands the procedures to follow should she have a concern about children's safety or welfare. The child minder ensures children wash their hands at appropriate times and provides paper towels for drying. Parents provide packed lunches. The child minder has appropriate records for any accidents or incidents and records the administration of medication. The child minder ensures children have plenty of outdoor play and fresh air.

There are positive relationships and interactions between the child minder and the children demonstrating respect, warmth and kindness. She manages children's behaviour and individual needs well. The child minder encourages children to share and to be kind, reminding them with the use of behavioural posters displayed around the play areas. She resolves minor sharing issues calmly and with ease. She praises good behaviour and children's achievements consistently which enhances and promotes their self-esteem. For example, when the children use Welsh words, correctly identify colours and count.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring atmosphere and gives responsive care. She maintains written developmental records, and plans for their next steps of development. She knows the children well and has a good understanding of each child's individual needs and routine. The child minder promotes some basic incidental Welsh words.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, secure and well maintained. Safety gates are situated at various door entrances, preventing children accessing areas without supervision. The child minder uses a visitors' book to record the people present when child minding takes place. The child minder provides a homely environment. She has developed appropriate risk assessments, which are reviewed regularly. The child minder completes regular fire drills with the children and keeps appropriate records. Heating safety checks are in place and cleaning routines reflect suitable hygiene practices.

The property is clean and welcoming. The child minder uses her kitchen/dining area and two playrooms for child minding. The toilet is situated on the ground floor and the child minder ensures she supervises and supports the younger children when required. The child minder organises the environment appropriately to provide a good range of play opportunities for children and there is suitable space for the age ranges cared for. There is a secure outdoor garden which children can access from the playroom and provides children with regular opportunities for fresh air and physical play. The garden is divided into a grassed area and a patio area with a covered section for all weather outdoor play.

The child minder ensures children can access a variety of age-appropriate furniture, toys, and equipment. She provides a vast range of resources for the children, including craft items, role play items, books, vehicles, physical play items, water and sand play resources. There are plenty of toys to keep the children's interest. Storage boxes are stored at low level so that children can easily identify the contents and help themselves. The child minder promotes an awareness of different cultures and diversity with resources such as books and jigsaws and celebrates some festivals such as Chinese New Year.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder is organised and runs her service appropriately. She engages positively with Care Inspectorate Wales and addresses any recommendations. The child minder has an up to date statement of purpose which reflects the service provided. She has a range of suitable policies and procedures, which she reviews regularly. The child minder ensures that children's records and documentation are accurate and complete, including a range of permission forms and a children's register. The child minder has up to date certificates such as public liability insurance, Information Commissioner's Office and relevant car documents.

The child minder is committed to developing her business to ensure that she provides a good quality service. She seeks information from parents to support her in the evaluation of her service and provides an opportunity for them to make any suggestions for improvements. The child minder reviews and reflects upon her service and produces a quality of care report. However, the report does not consider targets for future developments and improvements for the service.

The child minder is suitably 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 various training courses and has recently completed a positive child behaviour training course. Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) for herself and household members aged over 16 years are valid.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal communication and electronic means. The child minder makes good use of her local community. For example, she takes children to the park, beach and visits local playgroups, which benefit the children's development and learning. 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.

Area(s) for Improvement

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

	inspection	
15	The child minder does not have an up to date Statement of purpose, which accurately reflects the service that she is offering.	Achieved
	The child minder had not completed a quality of care report, seeking the views of those using her service to monitor her quality, since 2013	Achieved

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 18 - Quality assurance	The quality of care report should include targets for future developments and improvements for the service.

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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