



Inspection Report

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Swansea



Date Inspection Completed

24/09/2024

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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	28 November 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is making a significant effort to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture or is working towards being a bilingual service.

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

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time with the child minder. They have a very strong voice and excellent opportunities to make decisions and choices about what they do and how they spend their time. Children confidently choose resources and activities which interest them and can play inside or outside for most of the time. They benefit from positive, warm relationships with the child minder, her assistant and each other.

The child minder is nurturing, caring and highly successful in meeting children's needs. Her interactions with them are consistently high quality and she manages their behaviour sensitively. The child minder offers an excellent range of free-play opportunities and plans enhanced activities and outings that further support children's play and learning.

The child minder uses the lower ground floor of her home solely for her business. She ensures the premises are safe, clean, and well maintained. They are welcoming, homely, and well organised. The child minder provides an excellent enabling environment both inside and outside where children can play and develop safely whilst learning to manage risk.

The child minder manages her setting well and provides a service with a focus on the needs and happiness of the children in her care. Overall, paperwork is well organised and reviewed regularly. The child minder develops strong partnerships with parents and works closely with other child minders and the local school.

Well-being

Excellent

Children have a very strong voice. They have excellent opportunities to make decisions about how they spend their time and about the things that affect them. For example, they choose what they want to play with and where they want to play. They are asked when they are hungry and if they want to eat and can make decisions about what they eat. Nearly all children are confident communicators. 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. As a result, they can make their opinions and wishes known which supports them in their decision making.

Children feel safe to explore. They confidently move between the indoor and outdoor areas of the setting, clearly learning how to do this safely and independently. They are happy, relaxed, and extremely well settled at the setting. Children benefit from a child minder who knows them very well and develop close bonds with her, her assistant and each other. The familiar patterns of the day help children develop a strong sense of security and belonging.

Children of all ages behave and interact extremely well. Younger ones cope well with minor upsets and those who need a little more reassurance readily approach the child minder for comfort and cuddles. Older children make friends and play together after school whilst younger ones play remarkably well alongside each other as is appropriate for their ages.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. They benefit from an excellent range of resources, activities and opportunities. They are curious and self-motivated to explore new experiences and return to familiar ones. For example, younger children enthusiastically explore oats as part of an interactive story telling session of Goldilocks or swing confidently on the play equipment rigged under the outdoor canopy. Children develop concentration as they persevere with these activities. During their play, children have many opportunities to learn and develop. For example, they begin to name colours, use numbers, and develop their vocabulary. They develop physical skills and learn to manage risks as they use play equipment such as rope ladders or wheeled toys, negotiate steps in and out of the house or between play areas and use safety knives to cut up food. Children have excellent opportunities to extend their experiences through trips and outings such as to play groups, rhyme time at the library or walks along the canal path.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop independence and self-help skills which allows them to do things for themselves successfully and develops their self-esteem. Children of all ages help to prepare their own food and pour their own drinks. As they get older, they find their own aprons, cutlery and crockery and clear them away when finished. Children take increasing responsibility for their own belongings, managing their own clothes, shoes and personal hygiene. All children learn to help tidy away when they have finished with something, supporting them to learn how to contribute to looking after their environment.

The child minder has an excellent understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She has a robust understanding of the procedures to follow to protect children and gave confident answers to a range of scenarios. The child minder has suitable systems for recording accidents, incidents, and existing injuries and ensures she informs parents of these. She records the times of children's attendance accurately. The child minder follows thorough hygiene procedures in relation to food preparation, serving meals and nappy changing. She has appropriate procedures in place to manage food allergies, intolerances or preferences. The child minder encourages a healthy lifestyle, providing nutritious, home cooked meals and snacks and ensuring children get plenty of drinks, fresh air and exercise.

The child minder interacts with children exceptionally well. She is calm, patient, and caring and makes very close bonds with children and their families. She and her assistant speak respectfully to each other and children and act as excellent role models. The child minder manages behaviour skilfully giving clear explanations of what children need to do if there is a problem and provides lots of praise for the things children do or try. Children respond extremely well to this and as a result behave exceptionally well.

The child minder effectively supports children's play and learning. She provides a play-based setting with a highly enabling environment where children can follow their own interests and lead their own play. She is responsive and skilled at taking spontaneous opportunities to support and extend learning and thinking such as when a child finds a small slug or introducing technology toys when children show interest in a laptop. The child minder also plans exciting, enhanced activities such as interactive story telling sessions that include songs, puppets, movement, and exploratory play, mindfulness sessions and yoga. The child minder organises frequent outings including a trip to the Senedd further to support children to learn about the wider world they live in. The child minder knows children very well and notices and notes things they need to develop which she incorporates into her planning and interactions. She notes "WOW" moments and tracks children's development. The child minder uses lots of incidental Welsh during the day which supports children to develop their understanding and use of the Welsh language.

Environment

Excellent

The child minder ensures her premises are safe and secure. She has comprehensive risk assessments in place which she regularly reviews. We did not see any hazards during our visit. The child minder's home is exceptionally clean and well maintained. She follows an appropriate food management system and keeps consistent, useful records. The child minder keeps a record of visitors to the setting. She ensures she has an annual gas appliance service. The child minder carries out and records monthly fire evacuation drills so everyone knows what to do in an emergency. She cares for children across a wide age range and ensures she has suitable car seats for everyone.

The child minder creates an excellent enabling environment both inside and outside that is child friendly. She uses the lower ground floor of her premises and the rear garden exclusively for her child-minding business. Inside, she provides a homely environment where children have use of a large kitchen dining space for general play as well as eating, cooking, and craft or messy activities. Children also benefit from a dedicated and attractive playroom which has direct access to a downstairs toilet. This supports children's developing independence in managing their personal care and provides an area for nappy changing that ensures children's privacy and dignity is respected. The playroom includes a comfortable full-size sofa and many quality resources which are organised in a way that enables children to access most of them independently. Additionally, the child minder uses this room as a quiet space for children to have undisturbed sleep in travel cots or on sleep mats.

The child minder enables children to access the garden directly from the kitchen via a small step. It is large, with terracing making the best use of the sloping site. Minded children used the top two terraces at the time of inspection. Each level has a gate which can close it off if needed. The canal path is at the bottom of the garden and the childminder uses this for walks. The child minder ensures children learn to safely and confidently negotiate the steps out of the kitchen and between the different levels from a young age. We heard the children remind each other on occasions to be careful on them. The garden provides further extensive and exciting resources and equipment. For instance, it features an array of climbing and swinging equipment suspended under a canopy, a mud kitchen, exploratory stations and water pump to highlight just a few.

There is an extensive range of good quality resources both inside and outside that are clean, safe, and suitable for the children using them. Some of the more unusual ones include meditation drums and a secret fairy world. Many resources promote children's imagination and can be used flexibly. The child minder has a good understanding of promoting cultural awareness and diversity and has resources to support this.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder runs an excellent child-centred setting. She works extremely well with an assistant who works with the same dedication and enthusiasm as herself. Overall, paperwork is very well organised, and regularly reviewed. She stores many documents electronically and makes very good use of technology to support her practice. The child minder has a comprehensive range of very good policies to support the safe and smooth running of her setting although one or two needed minor amendments. She updated these immediately following the inspection visit. The child minder has a detailed Statement of Purpose which is an accurate reflection of the setting and useful for parents.

The child minder understands her responsibility to review her practice. She seeks the views of parents and children and uses them to inform an annual Quality of Care review that offers some evaluation of her setting and practice. The child minder is committed to on-going development of her setting and works positively with Care Inspectorate Wales.

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 for herself and her assistant. She is also committed to continuous professional development for herself and her assistant, and they undertake other courses that become available. The child minder further supports her assistant through regular supervision and appraisal meetings. She ensures she maintains a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for herself and relevant household members. However, these had not been counter signed by Welsh Ministers as is required and she therefore applied for new ones following the inspection visit. The child minder periodically applies for local authority grants which she makes good use of to buy equipment and resources such as the canopy over the top garden terrace.

The child minder works with other professionals such as the Flying Start service and other child minders. She makes connections in the community through playgroups, schools, visits to the library, museum, arts centre and gardening club. The child minder develops strong partnerships with parents. She collects all relevant information before children start with her to ensure she can meet their individual needs. The child minder keeps parents well informed about their children and what they do through a variety of methods such as verbal feedback and electronic messages.

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

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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

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)
Further develop the quality of care review to be more evaluative of outcomes for children and to inform an action plan for setting developments.

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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