



Inspection Report

Lydia Fisher

Newport



Date Inspection Completed

30/04/2024

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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	First inspection since registering
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>	Adequate
<u>Care and Development</u>	Adequate
<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 happy and secure at the setting. They have warm relationships with the child minder. Children are familiar with the routines and settle quickly. They are able to make choices and decisions about their care and play. Children have opportunities to become independent and develop their individual skills through a suitable range of quality experiences and play.

The child minder is attentive and knows the children well. She has clear policies and procedures which support her in her role, and as a newly registered provider, her confidence is building with time and experience. Some additional skills and strategies to help her manage children's interactions and behaviour would be of benefit. The child minder assesses children's progress appropriately and plans some activities daily.

The home is spacious and suitable for the needs of children who attend. It is safe and secure and there are appropriate safety checks to ensure children's welfare. An appropriate range of toys and resources promote children's all-round development. The children enjoy regular visits to the local park.

The child minder manages the setting appropriately. She has suitable policies, procedures, records and safety checks completed. Due to a break away from minding, the child minder misunderstood her responsibility to complete Care Inspectorate Wales's (CIW) Self Assessment of Service Statement this year and is therefore non-compliant with this regulation.

Well-being

Adequate

Children make choices and enjoy the time they spend at the child minder's home. They are confident to speak up and make their needs and wishes known. They have opportunities to follow their play interests and to make decisions and choices about what they like to do.

Children chat animatedly with the child minder and they have nice conversations. Children spoke about reading the Very Hungry Caterpillar in school that day; the child minder offered to read the story the next day and make the caterpillar and the food out of playdough, and the children all agreed they would like that.

Children are happy and well settled, and are clearly very at ease with the child minder. They know their opinions are heard and their needs will be met, which helps them to feel comfortable and secure. Children form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They play happily together or alongside each other. They are comfortable and relaxed within the setting and feel a sense of belonging.

Children are learning to manage their own behaviour and to interact positively with each other, in line with their ages and stages of development. The children have a lot of energy when arriving home from school, and would have benefited from an outdoor play opportunity, which the child minder told us she would normally provide but it was raining heavily. Their energy and excitement made it challenging for them to undertake quieter, indoor activities. However, they did engage and their efforts were praised.

Children are enthusiastic, interested in their play, and enjoy a suitable range of activities. Young children move freely around their play space, interacting with the toys available, such as dolls and a play kitchen. Older children have opportunities to practice skills, such as communication and fine motor skills, through activities that interest them. Children played with playdough for a long time and made lots of different animals, of which they were proud. Children can select their own toys and follow their own interests, supported by the child minder when required. There are regular trips to the park for gross motor play and they enjoyed playing in the garden when the weather cleared later during our visit.

Care and Development

Adequate

The child minder implements suitable procedures to keep children safe and healthy. She is able to identify children at risk and understands how to follow safeguarding procedures appropriately. She is yet to attend face to face safeguarding training, but she is aware of the need to complete this and has been attempting to secure a place on a course for several months. The child minder maintains paediatric first aid training so that she can meet children's needs. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are updated as necessary. She provides appropriate snacks for children and the children benefit from a healthy eating approach which takes account of any individual dietary requirements and follows current guidelines. Effective accident, incident and medication recording systems are in place.

The child minder treats the children very warmly, with dignity and respect. She sets realistic boundaries, is a good role model and uses a consistent approach to managing behaviour. The child minder takes account of the children's age and understanding. We saw the child minder was positive and warm when guiding children's behaviour. She speaks with the children in a consistently calm and reassuring manner, which puts them at ease. She has undertaken an extended course in managing children's behaviour positively. We discussed that developing some further practical solutions to help support children manage their behaviour would be of benefit.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring environment in which children's development is promoted and their needs are met. The child minder ensures that children are able to exercise choice over the activities they engage in. She is aware of the principles of experiential learning and learning through play of the new Curriculum For Wales, and she is aware of the different skills she aims to develop in the children through the various activities she provides. The child minder keeps a record of children's development, with photographs and observations of the children's skills. We did not hear any Welsh language used during the inspection or see the inclusion of diverse cultures.

Environment**Adequate**

The child minder cares for children in a clean and safe environment. The front door is locked to restrict entry to the premises, and a record is maintained of all visitors. The child minder carries out a daily visual risk assessment and good cleaning routines throughout the play space. She maintains relevant insurances and an annual gas safety certificate for her home. She is aware of the need to maintain confidentiality, and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The child minder undertakes fire drills regularly and these are recorded appropriately. Registers record the times that children arrive and leave the setting.

The facilities and equipment provided meet the children's needs. The home is welcoming and friendly, appropriately maintained, and there is a good standard of cleanliness and repair throughout. The main play spaces are a lounge and a dedicated playroom. The playroom is decorated in an inviting, child-friendly way, with pictures, children's work, and mobiles displayed. The way in which resources are stored means that children can access many of them independently, and this helps with their independence and free choice. Children can access the garden directly from the playroom and they enjoy this.

Children have access to toys and equipment that are appropriate and suitable to their needs. The resources at the setting cover a suitable range of play opportunities for the ages of children attending. We discussed that as her service expands, additional resources will likely be needed for older children if they come into her care. We saw children exploring the resources available on many occasions, finding things to play with. The setting has suitable furniture such as child sized tables, chairs and soft furnishings.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

Children and parents benefit from a well-run and effectively planned setting. The child minder has a Statement of Purpose in place which contains the information required and is kept under review to ensure it is always an accurate reflection of the service provided. The setting's policies are appropriate and thorough.

Children and parents benefit from a setting which is committed to providing good outcomes for children. There is a suitable system in place to ensure that the child minder undertakes formal self-evaluation on an annual basis, and demonstrates that the child minder consults with parents and children. However, due to a break away from minding, the child minder misunderstood the requirement that she complete CIW's Self Assessment of Service Statement in January 2024 and did not submit it. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement and we expect the provider to take action. We discussed this and she now understands the need to do it on the next round of submissions.

Robust procedures are in place to ensure the child minder is suitable to care for children. The child minder and relevant members of her household have DBS checks in place and the child minder has a system to ensure they are current. The child minder has also shown a commitment to her continuing professional development by undertaking some additional training courses to further improve her understanding of childcare and related matters. There are contingency plans in place to deal with emergencies and nominated people who the child minder can call upon in an emergency.

Parents have all the information they need to make an informed choice about using this setting. The child minder identifies children's needs to ensure she can provide appropriate care. She invites parents to visit the setting prior to their child starting. Together they complete child record forms to ensure the child minder has the information necessary to meet children's needs. Copies of all policies are available to parents. The child minder keeps parents involved and informed about their child's activities.

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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17	The Self Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) was not submitted in 2024. Ensure the SASS is submitted on future occasions.	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 20 - Child protection	Attend Level 3 safeguarding training
Standard 9 - Behaviour	Consider additional practical solutions to help support children manage their behaviour

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)
Strengthen the inclusion of the Welsh language and the diverse cultures of modern Wales

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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