



Inspection Report

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Aberystwyth



Date Inspection Completed

15/08/2024

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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	This is the first inspection post registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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>	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 recycled materials they would like to complete their craft model dinosaur.

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 and her family. Children's craft work is 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 any 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, listening to the child minder and not climbing the stairs.

Children enjoy their play and learning activities. They excitedly take part in craft activities, being creative with role play, and den building. 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.

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, use the toilet facilities and eat independently with little support from the child minder.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has a range of appropriate policies, which promote children's safety and well-being. Her safeguarding training is up to date, and she has procedures in place to safeguard children, appropriately answering child protection scenarios. The child minder promotes and meets children's health needs successfully. She holds current first aid and food hygiene certificates. There are organised systems in place to record accidents, incidents and medication administration. Effective hygiene practices are mostly in place, with regular cleaning routines followed. However, children do not always complete regular handwashing especially before mealtimes or after using the toilet facilities. No nappy changing was viewed, due to the ages of the children attending.

The child minder has an appropriate behaviour management policy in place which details a positive strategy in relation to behaviour. She uses praise as a reward for wanted behaviours such as sharing. The child minder has a sound understanding that using praise in this way builds children's self-esteem and reinforces positive behaviours. She follows the policy consistently, praising children for their achievements. We heard her encourage and positively respond to children throughout our visit. The child minder models the language associated with good manners and always acts as a good role model. She engages successfully with children, whilst promoting their play and learning. Interactions are consistently gentle and nurturing, demonstrating respect, warmth and kindness.

The child minder is aware of the children's individual development. She knows the children very well and has a good understanding of each child's individual needs and routine. The child minder is beginning to keep effective developmental records and has a good understanding of how these inform her next steps and areas to focus on. She involves children in a variety of activities, both indoors and outdoors. She supports children in their free play, using incidental opportunities to extend discussion and learning opportunities. For example, she enters into imaginative play with older children and provides ideas to extend their play and resources to enable this. With younger children, she keenly observes their development and thoughtfully identifies their next steps to support their progress.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, secure and well maintained. She provides a homely environment. The child minder has developed appropriate risk assessments, which are reviewed regularly. She completes occasional fire drills with the children; however, the children would benefit from more regular fire drills. Heating safety checks are in place and cleaning routines reflect suitable hygiene practices.

The property is clean and welcoming. Children do not access the upstairs area of the home. The child minder uses her kitchen/dining area and playroom 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 with regular opportunities for fresh air and physical play. Children have some supervised contact with the pet dog, he remains away from where children play much of the time. The child minder has a pet policy in place.

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, toy vehicles and physical play items. There are plenty of toys to keep the children's interest. Resources 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 runs her setting well. She is very organised and keeps all the required records to a good standard. Children have accurate and complete contracts, with consent forms. Registers with children's arrival and departure times are maintained. Household members have up to date disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks and are subscribed to the update service. A statement of purpose is in place, which provides an accurate reflection of the service provided. The child minder has a range of accessible and beneficial policies in place, however, there was no policy in place to consider children's safety when using digital technology or while being online. She is suitably qualified and has a clear vision for the future running of her setting. She has a strong culture of continuous professional development and reflects on what she can implement into her own practice following the training. Updating her practice in this way and a commitment to continuous development positively benefits the children in her care.

The child minder reviews and reflects upon her service and produces a purposeful quality of care report. She seeks information from parents and children to support her in the evaluation of her service and provides an opportunity to make suggestions for improvements. The report looks at what works well and considers areas for improvement. The child minder engages positively with Care Inspectorate Wales.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal handovers and private messaging. The child minder makes good use of local amenities regularly taking children out to local beaches, woodland walks and parks. She occasionally meets with other professional child minders in the area. Some people who use the setting have completed online questionnaires as part of this inspection. Feedback received is very positive. They tell us, *"My child is extremely happy at this setting and always looks forward to seeing Laura each week. I value the range of activities on offer combined with the small number of children at the setting. The care is excellent, and I have no concerns about my child's wellbeing whilst there. Laura is a lovely person, very friendly and approachable."*

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 inspection	N/A

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 children complete regular handwashing especially before handling food or after using the toilet facilities.
Standard 24 - Safety	Complete regular fire drills, at least every 6 months.

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)
Develop a policy to consider children's use of digital equipment and online safety.

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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