



Inspection Report

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Swansea



Date Inspection Completed

10/11/2022

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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	16 January 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children's voice is strong at this child minding setting. Children are happy and settled in the child minder's care. Their interactions are good and they enjoy their time at the setting. Children develop good independence skills.

Overall, the child minder follows suitable procedures to keep children safe. Her understanding of child protection and safeguarding is good. The child minder's interactions with children are warm, positive and kind. The child minder has a good understanding about the needs of children and play is based on children's preferences.

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, secure and well-maintained. The property is suitable, welcoming and nicely decorated with a spacious playroom. The outdoor space is accessible to all, and there are a good range of quality resources indoors and outdoors for children of all ages and stages.

The child minder runs the setting adequately. She is experienced and passionate about her role as a child minder. There is a statement of purpose which reflects the care provided. There are policies and procedures in place, however, need updating to include current guidance. Partnerships with parents are good.

Children are happy and settled in the child minder's care. They have a close relationship with her and feel a real sense of belonging at the setting. On children's arrival at the child minder's home, they naturally played with toys immediately. They were excited about the range of new toys that were available for them, and help themselves to anything they want. Children are happy to approach the child minder for support. Children confidently share their positive achievements with the child minder. For example, they proudly showed her the Pudsey pictures they had coloured with wax crayons. Older children told us that they are very happy at this setting saying, "*Louise looks after us well, she's a brilliant child minder!*"

Children's voice is strong. They confidently move from one activity to another. Children's views and opinions are respected; Although the child minder modelled the colours needed to colour the Pudsey picture, children chose to colour their bears in different colours, which was respected by her.

Children's interactions are good. During mealtimes, children happily chatted about their foods, and older children shared stories and laughed about their day in school. Children listen well to instructions given to them. They listened when the child minder told them to be careful not to climb on to the table in case they would fall. Children respect others by being kind and sharing well. Older children share construction toys whilst making models of superheroes and younger children shared dollies and small world toys. Children are polite and friendly to others and the child minder. They courteously say 'please' and 'thank you' for their foods and for the new resources recently purchased for them.

Children enjoy their time at the child-minding setting. Younger children enjoy colouring and using stamps to create their pictures. Children show good concentration and perseverance in their chosen activities. They laughed out loud and danced as they listened to songs on a musical technology game. They giggled as they played 'peekaboo' with the role play kitchen window. Older children find that there are plenty of activities for them and feel their preferences are appreciated. Older children excitedly engaged in their new resources using elastic band crafts to make bracelets, teen dolls and construction toys.

Children develop good independence skills. They independently take their coats, boots and bags off and place their personal belongings in a box under the stairs. All children independently feed themselves using forks. Older children return plates and cutlery, naturally thanking the child minder for the foods they have. Children's fine motor skills are developing well. They show good pencil grip and manage to create creative bracelets without support.

Overall, the child minder follows suitable procedures to keep children safe. Her understanding of child protection and safeguarding is good. She responded well when asked questions about potential scenarios in relation to the protection and wellbeing of children. The child minder informed us that there have been no accidents or injuries at the setting. However, the child minder has no recent child protection/safeguarding training, and pre-existing injuries are not recorded. The child minder's paediatric first aid and food hygiene certificates are in date. In relation to infection, prevention and control, the child minder ensures that the children wash their hands before eating. However, the tables were not sanitised before children ate their foods. The child minder provides good wholesome meals for children, however, she sometimes provides sweet treats for children. Arrangements for supervising and caring for children is very good.

The child minder's interactions with children are positive. She knows the children well and has very close bonds with them. She shows kindness and respect to the children in her care. For example, she sat down and had lovely chats with children about their day at school, asked about their friendships and activities. The child minder praises children well. She praises them for eating well, changing without support, and praised children's good colouring efforts saying "*Wow, I love it!*" The child minder promotes good behaviour techniques by distracting children who want the same toys by giving them an alternative and encouraging them to 'be kind' to each other.

The child minder has a good understanding about the needs of children. She gives children comforting cuddles when they are tired and responds positively to those running to her for cuddles spontaneously. She has an awareness about the new Additional Learning Needs (ALN) framework. The child minder gives children the opportunities to take responsibility for their own foods and encourages them to blow on their pasta in case it was too hot. The child minder promotes cultures and diversity by planning activities based on celebrations and traditions especially for families and friends of children attending the setting who are from different counties and live within the community. There is no record of planning and assessment. Play and learning is based on children's preferences and the child minder plans activities based on the children's choice, along with seasonal celebrations and themes.

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, secure and well-maintained. There are cleaning procedures in place. The front door is locked during child minding hours and visitors who are not familiar to the child minder are required to show identification badges and sign a visitors record. However, family members visiting the property during child minding hours are not always recorded. Fire safety checks are maintained and there are effective safety procedures in place. Fire drills have been conducted regularly in the past. However, the fire evacuation drills have not been completed recently. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the child minder to take action to rectify this, which will be looked at during the next inspection. The child minder has robust risk assessments in place, and these are regularly updated. Heating maintenance checks have been updated during the course of inspection and the child minder has confirmed that the recommendations made by the engineers during the heating maintenance check have been completed.

The property is suitable, welcoming and nicely decorated indoors, with a spacious playroom area. The outdoor area is a safe enclosed garden. There is a celebration of children's work on the walls of the playroom which include artwork and literacy work which have been completed with the child minder's support; Photographs of the minded children are displayed which gives them a sense of belonging at the setting. There are low level tables and chairs for younger children and a separate dining area for older children to eat their food. There are areas for relaxation. Toileting areas are accessible for all children with aids for the younger ones which provide for children's independence; and their privacy and dignity is respected.

The outdoor space is accessible from both the playroom and the kitchen areas. Resources for the outdoor area, include a swing, slide, trampoline and other smaller resources for younger children. The resources provided are of good quality and there is a good range available for all ages of children. Toys and resources are kept at a low level and accessible for children. There are labels of numbers and vocabulary on the walls. There are English and Welsh books available and a choice of dolls and books which promote cultures and diversity. There are push-along toys, soft toys and musical toys for younger children and a range of role play, small world play, creative resources and construction toys for older children.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder runs the setting adequately. She is passionate about her role as a child minder. There is a statement of purpose which reflects the care provided which has been updated during the course of the inspection. There are contracts and permissions in place in order to ensure the needs and preferences of children are met. However, there are no contracts or permissions for children attending for 'settling in' sessions. The child minder has a current public liability insurance and car documents are valid. All disclosure and barring checks are in place for current household members.

The child minder has completed a quality-of-care review during the course of inspection. This includes views from parents and children via questionnaires and mentions areas which have positively impacted the children, such as purchasing new resources.

The child minder is experienced, and the policies and procedures are in place, and updated regularly. However, the policies do not include current guidance and contact numbers in relation to child protection, safeguarding, complaints and concerns, and the behaviour policy. The child minder has completed the most recent Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) and has notified Care Inspectorate Wales of changes to people living at the setting during the course of inspection.

Partnerships with parents are good. The child minder takes opportunities to visit local parks, beaches and local attractions regularly. Parents told us their children are very happy and very well cared for whilst with the child minder. They have used this child minder for many years. They commented that she is brilliant, caring and considerate towards them as a family and especially the children, and she is the absolute best child minder that they could wish for. The child minder shares her policies and procedures with parents, and reports back to parents on children's needs at the end of the daily child-minding session.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. To ensure that all areas are sanitised before meals

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R2. To be aware of the 'Food and Nutrition guidance for Childcare Settings'

R3. To record all incidents and accidents including pre-existing injuries, and update child protection training

R4. To ensure all visitors to the setting are recorded and kept

R5. To be aware of current guidance and update policies and procedures accordingly.

R6. To ensure pre-registration, medical information and permissions are obtained and signed by parents before children attend the setting.

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

38	The child minder has not completed regular fire drills.	New
16	The child minder has not ensured that a quality of care review has been completed annually.	Achieved

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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