



Inspection Report

Michelle Owen

Powys



Date Inspection Completed

14/06/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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.

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2023.

You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

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

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at this setting. They feel very secure, happy, and comfortable. They play freely, are extremely contented, and happily communicate their needs. Children confidently choose toys and activities which interest them from the excellent selection available. They have very positive and affectionate bonds of attachment with the child minder and each other.

The child minder has a comprehensive range of policies in place, which promote the children's well-being. The child minder provides a nurturing and caring atmosphere and consistently meets children's needs successfully. She offers an excellent range of free play opportunities and engaging planned activities for children to access independently or with support.

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, clean, and well maintained. The premises are welcoming, homely and well organised. Detailed risk assessments and safety checks are in place. The child minder provides a wide range of engaging resources, which extend children's play and further their development.

The service is managed exceptionally well. The child minder has a beneficial range of policies and procedures which are shared with parents. Communication with parents is very effective. Links with the community are good.

Children are very confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are fully considered. They know that their verbal and non-verbal communication will be acted upon. Children move around confidently, exploring and following their interests. They have very good opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. For example, during outdoor play they were encouraged to choose what they wanted to play with.

Children are delighted and express enthusiasm and enjoyment. Throughout their time at the setting, we saw children happy, smiling and laughing. Children confidently spoke with visitors. Their individual needs are met, and their routines are supported. They clearly have a strong sense of belonging, forming strong relationships and are very familiar with routines. For example, getting themselves ready to go to collect other children.

Interactions between children and the child minder are consistently stimulating. Children cooperate enthusiastically and feel inspired and motivated. For example, a younger child copied an older child while playing outside on the climbing frame, smiling and giggling with each other. Children confidently interact with each other and included visitors in their play, showing an exceptional sense of confidence. There is lots of play between different age groups of children, as well as with the child minder.

Children are highly motivated, animated, and fully engaged in their play and learning. We heard children mumbling to themselves as they played, and they concentrated for a good amount of time on their chosen activity. They eagerly enjoy interesting and stimulating opportunities indoors and outdoors and can choose to relax and have quiet times. Children have considerable freedom to safely explore their indoor and outdoor environment. For instance, they move confidently between rooms and around the furniture and resources safely.

Children are self-motivated to initiate their own play and to influence their tasks and activities because there is a focus on child led activities. Children take part in activities resulting in a great feeling of achievement and high self-esteem. They are enthusiastic to show or talk about what they have been doing. Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills, enabling them to do things for themselves successfully. For instance, they were encouraged to try and put their shoes on or access resources independently before being offered support.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder has purposeful and thorough policies in place, which promote the children's safety and well-being. Her safeguarding training is up to date, and she has robust procedures in place to safeguard children. The child minder promotes children's health successfully and she prioritises children's well-being and safety. The child minder has clear procedures in place when taking children out in the car or collecting from school, which ensures their safety is paramount. She holds a current first aid certificate. There are good systems in place to record accidents/incidents and medication administration. Effective and robust hygiene practices are in place. The child minder encourages hand washing and she sanitises the regularly the children are supported in this practice too.

Behaviour management is a strength of the child minder. She praises children for their good behaviour and consistently encourages positive interactions. She makes up fun games to encourage children to respond positively. We saw the child minder encourage children to share appropriately with each other, calmly reminding children to take turns. The child minder engages successfully with children, whilst promoting their learning and self-esteem. For example, whilst engaging in messy play, we heard her encourage the children and praise their efforts. She models the language associated with good manners, and acts as a good role model at all times.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring atmosphere and gives responsive care. She is aware of the children's individual development and emotional needs. She knows the children and their families exceptionally well and has a good understanding of each child's individual requirements and routine. The child minder strives to understand and communicate with the children in her care. Her interactions with the children are positive, demonstrating warmth and kindness. She looks upon the children as an extension of her own family unit. The child minder supports children in their free play, using incidental opportunities to extend discussion and learning opportunities. The child minder plays alongside children which results in children developing their imagination for sustained periods of time. Planning is thematic and the child minder tracks the children's progress effectively.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures that the environment is safe, secure, and well maintained indoors and outdoors. She has effective measures in place to ensure that she follows and implements her responsibilities in relation to the safety and welfare of children. The child minder completes effective and accurate general risk assessments, which are regularly reviewed and acted upon. She organises regular cleaning routines that reflect her good hygiene practices and her good infection control practices minimise any risks to children's health and safety. The child minder carries out regular safety checks and fire drills, with documentation made available to inspect.

The child minder ensures that the environment has good indoor and outdoor play space for children to move freely. She ensures the environment meets the needs of all children and enables most of them to reach their full potential. For instance, resources are stored at low levels, in drawers, boxes or on open shelves which allow children to access them independently. The child minder ensures that any outdoor play space is used as often as possible, and we saw the children enjoying this. The child minder organises the environment well so that it provides a good range of play opportunities suitable for the age ranges cared for. The premises are welcoming, warm, and accessible to all.

The child minder ensures that children can access good quality and a broad variety of age-appropriate furniture, toys, and equipment. These are well maintained, checked, and cleaned regularly and stored appropriately. The child minder offers resources and toys which stimulate the children's interest and imagination, ensuring there is a good balance of resources made from both plastic and natural materials. She uses displays, books, and activities to promote the Welsh language throughout the environment. There is a good-sized outdoor play area which is well maintained and presents interesting opportunities for the children.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder runs her service extremely well and exceeds the National Minimum Standards (NMS). She is very organised and keeps all the required records. A statement of purpose is in place which provide those who use the setting with an accurate reflection of the service provided. The child minder has a range of beneficial, easy to read, policies in place which she shares with parents. The child minder is suitably qualified and has a clear vision for her service. She has a strong culture of continuous personal development and has completed numerous trainings since previous inspection.

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 to the service. The report looks at what works well at the setting and clearly targets areas for improvement.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents and other professional child minders. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal, private messages, and social media posts. The child minder makes good use of her local community and environment engaging in interesting and stimulating trips which will benefit the children's development and learning. For example, using the local park and rural walks.

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
------------	---------	--------

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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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.

Was this report helpful?

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- [Inspection report survey](#)

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our [Feedback surveys page](#).

Date Published 16/08/2023