



Inspection Report

Leah Roberts

Cemaes Bay

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

07/07/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	29 September 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	The service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

Summary

This is an inspection completed during the Covid 19 Pandemic, meaning not all areas of the quality framework were considered.

Children are happy and know the child minder well. They are relaxed in her company and enjoy the time they spend in her care. The child minder is gaining confidence in her role and has implemented positive changes since the last inspection. She is caring and responsive to children's individual needs and works in partnership with parents.

The environment is welcoming and provides what is needed, to enable them to take part in a variety of different activities. Risks are well managed. The child minder has a vision for her service, and has responded to previous recommendations made by Care Inspectorate Wales.

Well-being

Children are confident and comfortable with the child minder. A consistent routine helps them feel secure because they know what to expect during the day. Regular periods are spent exploring the local community, we saw photographs of children feeding the horses, and they enjoyed telling us about the foal that had arrived and how much he had grown.

Children are happy and relaxed because they have formed a close relationship with the child minder. After they returned from their morning walk, the children knew it was time for them to choose what they wanted to play with. Older children helped younger children to get what they wanted, and they helped them to complete the activity of fitting objects in to a ball.

Children are making friends, and they enjoy spending time with one another. We saw younger children mimic what they had seen others do which helps them make progress by learning from those around them. Children follow the child minders lead and spoke to one another kindly. They show kindness and consideration towards one another, and also take care of resources, keeping items they have played with back where they belong. They know what is expected of them and follow the rules.

Children persevere for an appropriate amount of time on their chosen activity and we saw evidence they regularly complete craft and artwork for various celebrations throughout the year. Children can play on their own, but the child minder sits alongside them to offer positive word of encouragement and gets involved in what is going on.

Children are gaining appropriate independence skills, such as feeding themselves at lunch time and they take pride in their achievements. High importance is placed on physical exercise, children walk to school daily and they regularly spend time outside playing in the garden and learning about growing vegetables to eat. They are confident to try new things and use various items to complete creative work.

Care and Development

The child minder is gaining confidence in her role. Policies and procedures have been reviewed but are not dated. Her safeguarding policy is readily available to parents, and she was confident of the process she would follow if she had concerns about a child, but she has not attended a safeguarding course. Her paediatric first aid certificate has been updated. Accident and incident records are kept and the child minder confidently supports and meets individual health needs. She fully meets children's personal care needs, for example by regularly changing children's nappies. Hands are washed and individual towels are used to dry hands, which reduces the risk of spreading infection. Hand sanitizer is readily available, and the child minder cleans resources after each use. The child minder provides meals and snacks; this is usually sandwiches at lunchtime and a hot meal at teatime. Welsh Government healthy eating guidance is not always followed because we observed children being offered juice to drink.

The child minder knows the children well. Positive behaviour is celebrated which results in little need to manage negative behaviour. She sets clear expectations, such as the importance of sharing and being kind to one another. The child minder manages her day at the children's pace; planning activities around school runs and making sure children are not rushed in any way.

The child minder regularly shares photographs with parents of what their children have been doing. Daily diaries for younger children provide parents with information about how their child's individual needs have been met. The daily routine provides children with stability, busier times are interspersed with quieter times and children have time to relax and rest when needed. The child minder provides activities that appeal to individual children's interest. For example, she had arranged for children to collect blackberries and baked a cake with them, and play dough activities are enjoyed after school.

Environment

The child minder supervises children well and risk assessments have been updated. Effective cleaning routines mean infection control procedures are followed and reduce the risk of spreading infection. The child minder ensures the safety of her premises. For example, the front door is always locked, and a safety gate has been installed across the living room door. She ensures the family dog does not have access to main playroom when children are present. Fire drills are completed at regular intervals meaning everyone is familiar with what to do should there be a fire.

The child minder makes good use of the ground floor of her house and has decorated the rooms with a colourful display of children's art work. She appropriately supervises children to use the bathroom which is located upstairs, and uses the space effectively to promote children's independence. She is also able to appropriately monitor sleeping children as they sleep close by in pushchairs in the main living room. The outdoor space used by children is enclosed and safe.

The child minder provides a wide variety of interesting toys and resources which are regularly rotated to assist the child minder in managing cleaning in line with her covid risk assessments. Acceptable storage keeps toys in appropriate condition.

Leadership and Management

The child minder operates her service in line with her statement of purpose. Policies and procedures are readily available, but are not dated to reflect when they have been reviewed. The child minder places high importance on working in partnership with parents and operates her service flexibly to accommodate their needs. The child minder has made the decision to restrict the number of children attending during the pandemic, as she wanted to restrict contact with different households to minimise the risk to her own family and those families using her service.

The child minder draws on her experience of caring for her own family and seeks feedback from parents. She successfully reflects the routine younger children follow at home and found this helped them to settle easily. The child minder is in the process of gathering the views of those using the service in preparation for submitting the self-assessment of service information to Care Inspectorate Wales. All household members have current disclosure and barring certificates.

The child minder works closely with parents to identify the individual needs and preferences of their children before they start at the service. She places high importance on meeting children's needs in accordance with parents' preferences. The child minder has established clear and regular communication with parents through instant messaging and daily diaries. She told us that she is looking forward to resuming visits to local places of interest and baby and toddler groups which provide a level of support for her and developmental opportunities for the children.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 –to complete relevant safeguarding training..

R 2 – drinks provided to follow Welsh Government healthy eating guidance for regulated child care settings.

R3 – observe and record what children can do, to help plan for the next steps in children's learning and development.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

The child minder was not recording children's time of arrival and when they left.	
Statement of purpose needed updating to include all the information as is required by regulations. Policies and procedures also needed to be reviewed and updated to reflect the household and service offered.	
one child's file did not have a contract. Child minder had not completed one due to children attending at different times each week, she was reminded that all children using the service are required to have a completed contract.	

Where providers fail to improve we will escalate the matter by issuing a priority action notice. Where providers fail to take priority action we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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