



Inspection Report

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Cardigan

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



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09/02/2023

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	8
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	2 October 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This 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.

<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 secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. They are active and curious learners, and they engage well in their play-based activities. The children have formed positive relationships with the child minder.

The child minder has detailed policies and procedures, which promote the children's well-being. The atmosphere is welcoming, and the child minder meets children's individual needs successfully. The child minder has high expectations and shares her values about learning and behaviour with the children.

Children receive care in a safe, clean, and secure environment. There is lots of space and plenty of facilities to encourage children to play and learn. Toys and play equipment are age appropriate and in good condition. The setting is welcoming and friendly.

The child minder manages the setting effectively and meets her legal responsibilities. The statement of purpose is clear and provides an accurate picture of the setting. The child minder works well with parents to give them information about the service and their children's well-being and care.

Well-being

Good

Children are happy and have lots of fun at the setting. They enjoy being in the company of the child minder and eagerly involve her in their play. Children form warm and affectionate relationships with the child minder and the other children. They snuggle up with the child minder when they start to feel tired. Children know the setting routines well which makes them feel secure, comfortable, and relaxed. Some children use non-verbal gestures to show what they want or need because of their age and stage of development. For example, pointing at toys or reaching up their arms for comfort.

Children form friendships and interact well. They smile, babble and wave when we arrive at the setting. They play happily, sharing plenty of laughter. They enjoy the social occasion of mealtimes; they sit nicely at the table or in the highchairs, and practice eating independently. Children feel a sense of belonging at the child minder's home and feel at ease with the child minder and her family.

Children have daily opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. They play in the large garden searching for worms and enjoy walks on the child minder's farm to visit the animals. Children clearly enjoy their play and benefit from a varied choice of play and learning opportunities. They are interested and fully involved in their activities. Children take part and concentrate on self-chosen activities and in adult led tasks for appropriate periods of time. For example, some children chose to have their hands painted to use in a printed picture of a heart, while others enjoy continuing to play with the blocks. In another area, one child is fully engaged in playing with the doll in a pushchair, pushing the pushchair around the playroom. However, at times children's opportunities to be creative are limited and activities are too adult led. For example, children did not use the paintbrush themselves to paint their hands as this was completed for them by the child minder.

Children are developing their independence skills well, enabling them to do things for themselves. For instance, trying to put on their own coats and shoes to play outside. The children are engaged and interested in their surroundings, often holding eye contact with the child minder, and following the child minder's movements while playing alongside each other.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has a good behaviour management policy, which she implements and follows consistently. She is calm and caring and she communicates with the children clearly. The child minder praises children consistently and is a positive role model. The child minder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She has written permissions from parents for a variety of situations, including outings, emergency medical treatment and application of sun cream.

The child minder implements thorough cleaning and good hygiene practices and follows a daily and weekly cleaning schedule. The child minder makes sure that the children are aware of the need for basic hygiene routines and ensures that they wash their hands regularly. The child minder often wipes the children's noses and disposes of tissues safely. During nappy changing, the child minder wears disposable gloves and apron to ensure good infection control. The child minder wipes down the changing mat with anti-bacterial spray after use.

The child minder is kind and caring. She listens and respects children's views. The child minder shows warmth and kindness, using praise and encouragement such as '*good girl*' and '*well done*'. She promotes good manners. We saw the child minder listen attentively to the children and expressed enthusiasm for what they were sharing with her. She offers comfort and cuddles to the children when they fall or are upset and offers distractions when children are becoming frustrated or unsettled with an activity.

The child minder has sound knowledge of child development and is confident to discuss children's development with parents. She plans for the children's next steps and has developed a method for monitoring children's progress. The child minder keeps parents fully informed about their child. She reassures and supports children in activities and routines and encourages their independence. The child minder regularly takes children out on the farm for walks and to visit the animals.

Environment

Good

The child minder's home is cosy, warm, and inviting. The environment is well kept, safe and clean. She has completed detailed risk assessments for the environment, fire safety, outings, and visits which she regularly reviews. The child minder informed us that she completes fire drills regularly and notes which days these were completed. However, detailed information is not recorded in the fire drill record. She has emergency procedures in place including emergency medical consent forms for all the children. Her understanding of safeguarding and child protection is sound.

The child minder ensures that the environment is suitably safe. For example, she keeps the front door secure with a locking system and ensures that safety checks such as boiler checks are completed. The child minder's home is set on a rural dairy farm and therefore the outdoor space provides good, spacious opportunities for children.

The child minder has sufficient indoor play space for the children to move freely. The child minder has organised the environment well so that it provides a good range of play opportunities for the children. She provides an environment that supports children's independence and provides suitable play activities. The children have access to resources from the labelled storage in the playroom. There is a wide variety of toys such as blocks, dolls, pushchairs, books, ride on toys, garage, threading activities, animals, tractors, and puzzles.

The child minder ensures equipment suits the children's age range. For example, there is a step in the bathroom to aid children when washing hands and using the toilet, stair gates to ensure children cannot climb the stairs and fire guards. The child minder ensures toys and equipment are clean and in good repair.

The outdoor area is a large space at the back of the property. The child minder has plans to further develop the outside area with a grant that she has recently received. She has ensured the safety of the children playing in this area by erecting a fence and a gate around the perimeter. In the garden, the children have a wide choice of resources and toys to play with including, trampoline for older children, sand pit, balls, ride on toys and many planters which the childminder uses regularly to grow produce with the children. The child minder ensures that the children use the outdoor play space as often as possible.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder has a clear vision for the setting which she manages well, ensuring all policies and procedures are up to date. She has effective policies in place, and we saw that these were implemented in practice and reviewed regularly. There is a statement of purpose, which explains her child-minding setting and accurately reflects the service provided. The child minder ensures that she complies with relevant regulations and meets the National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare (NMS). She is knowledgeable on her regulatory responsibilities.

The child minder has all relevant paperwork. For example, she has accurate records of children's attendance and personal information. The child minder has public liability insurance and appropriate vehicle documents in place. She has a good understanding of her role in relation to data protection, confidentiality and data retention and ensures there are valid Disclosure and Barring Service checks in place for all household members. Discussion with the child minder shows she is open to new ideas and embraces the need for continuous improvement. The child minder ensures suitable leadership and management of her setting.

The child minder has a system for actively implementing self-evaluation. She reviewed the quality of care in May 2022 and plans to send out questionnaires to consider parents and children's views to complete this year's review. She has a strong culture of continuous self and personal development. The child minder has positive partnerships with parents. She ensures that communication and engagement with parents are good and keeps parents well informed through regular discussion. Parents told us that their children love going to the child minder and happily talk about their day especially being able to feed the animals. The child minder uses the Welsh language regularly and consistently with the children and is working towards meeting the Active Offer of the Welsh language.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Ensure that there is a greater balance between adult intervention and children's creative lead in directed activity.

R2 Ensure more detailed information is recorded in the fire drill records.

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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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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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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