



Inspection Report

Euryl Thomas

Whitland

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

06/05/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection post registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh Language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language cultural needs of people who use the service.

Summary

Children are settled and have good opportunities to make choices. They have strong bonds and confident interactions with the child minder. Children are developing their independence skills well and enjoy learning through play. The child minder understands her role to keep children safe and healthy and manages interactions well. She provides a range of different activities and resources for a free flow play space for children. The child minder promotes Welsh vocabulary effectively to stimulate children's interests. The environment is warm, welcoming and suitable for the needs of the children. Toys and resources offer children learning opportunities to develop their independence skills. The child minder manages the setting appropriately and has built positive partnerships with parents.

Well-being

Children confidently communicate their needs with the child minder. They happily go to the child minder for cuddles and express their need for food and drink. Children's attempts are valued and listened to. For example of their choice to play with a shape sorting activity whilst eating their lunch, was respected by the child minder. Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions about their play. They help themselves to books, jigsaws, puzzles and role-play resources which are freely accessible to them.

Children are settled, content and happy. They are happy when waking from sleep times to see the child minder and have cuddles with her. Children have a close bond with the child minder. They comfortably sit with her, listening to stories and enjoy the cuddles given and at times seeking reassurance when they have fallen over or are tired. Children form relationships with each other. They help other younger children, giving them items of drink and toys. Children have a strong sense of belonging and they confidently told us who sleeps in each bed.

Children's interactions are good. Children interact well with the child minder and are actively engaged in activities. For example, children are actively interested in books and bring books to be read to them. Children enjoy acting out stories from the books with soft toys and props. Children listen well to instructions given to them in order to keep them safe. For example, respectfully coming down from standing on the sofa when gently prompted. Children develop an understanding about sharing resources, as they wanted to share their special sunglasses with the adults and children.

Children are engaged and enthusiastic about their play and learning opportunities. They enjoy the freedom of moving from one room to the other. They happily initiate their own play. A good example of this is when children playing with the veterinary role-play box, where they told the child minder "Mê-mê dost" ("Sheep is poorly") and proceeded to give the sheep some cream to put on its belly. Children listened to the "Tri Mochyn Bach" story. They excitedly repeated words, simple phrases and noises of the animals in the story. Children enjoyed counting from 1-10 using the "Peppa 123" book in Welsh. Children enjoyed singing "Beth sydd yn y fased siopa" (What's in the shopping basket?) and named foods such as bara, banana, cacen independently.

Children have good independence skills, enabling them to do things for themselves. They eat their finger foods independently and help themselves to their own personal drink bottles. Children help themselves to their own aprons and wet suits and return them without prompt.

Care and Development

The child minder implements policies and procedures to safeguard children's personal safety and well-being. Safeguarding is prioritised, and the child minder has an understanding of her responsibilities to protect children. She responded suitably to questions based on safeguarding and child protection scenarios. The child minder has regular daily cleaning routines. She offers healthy options to the children, including toast, porridge, fresh fruits, bread, ham, pasta, yoghurt, milk and water. The kitchen is visibly clean. However, the child minder did not wash her hands and children were not encouraged to wash their hands before eating. Most nappy changing procedures are followed. However the child minder did not wear gloves during the nappy changing in line with her policy. The child minder holds current paediatric first aid, safeguarding and food hygiene training certificates. She records details of accidents and incidents, which parents then sign. Medication permissions are dated with specific times and signatures obtained. However, the child minder does not record previous dosages and injuries.

Interactions between the child minder and children are consistently positive. She praises children for eating their food. She ensures their needs, interests and preferences are fully met. The child minder promptly responds to children's desires to eat spontaneously and attends to children's needs for rest and play. The child minder has a good understanding of child development and understands their individual needs and personalities in a positive way. The child minder ensures the children's home language is promoted and developed through song, reading and role-play. She demonstrates warmth and kindness towards the children in her care with cuddles and closeness, and places her arms around them during stories and quiet times.

The child minder ensures the children have broad experiences. For example being creative with paint, printing, playdough and messy play in the tuff tray. Other opportunities before the pandemic included visiting and feeding animals on the family farm and local visits. The child minder provides a consistent routine. There is no planning and assessment. However the child minder knows their developmental needs.

Environment

The child minder provides a safe environment for children. Regular safety checks take place and she risk assesses all areas indoors and outdoors. She has prepared risk assessments during the covid-19 pandemic ensuring the protective measures are met. However, there are no risk assessments for car journeys and outings. The front door and garden gate remain locked when children are at the service. A stairgate prevents children accessing the stairs and a guard for the fireplace. The child minder conducts regular fire drills and fire and smoke alarm checks. The heating checks are conducted regularly.

The home environment is warm, comfortable and well maintained. It provides a light, bright and spacious area for children to play and learn. All play and learning resources are stored at a low-level, which is accessible for children. The environment is equipped with suitably sized furniture and equipment to support children's independence. For example, travel cots, high chairs, child sized table and chairs, and toilet training facilities. The toileting and nappy changing areas provide for children's privacy and dignity.

The playroom stores a wide range of resources for the ages and stages of development of the children. This includes puzzles, games, role-play resources, and physical games. An array of Welsh books and labelling of Welsh colours, days of the week, numbers and vocabulary promotes the Welsh language. There is an outdoor space for children to play, including a covered play and water tray, and swings. As the setting is located within the countryside, the outdoor environment provides opportunities to visit the farm animals including dogs, sheep, horses and cows.

Leadership and Management

The child minder organises her service effectively. All the required policies and procedures are in place and mostly reflect current practice. The child minder has a statement of purpose, which is compliant with regulation and national minimum standards. The required Disclosure and Barring Service checks are in place for all household members. The child minder keeps numbers low in order to comply with ratios and to minimise risks of cross-infection during the Covid-19 pandemic. The records of children attending the service are very specific and in order. The child minder has a current public liability insurance and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The child minder has an understanding of the prevent duty and has a safeguarding and child protection policy. The setting provides an active offer of the Welsh language.

The child minder is a well-qualified and experienced childcare practitioner who understands child development and fully meets the children's needs. In the past, the child minder has evaluated her care to make improvements that includes the opinions of people using her service. However, there is no recent quality of care report for the service.

There is a complaints policy, although it does not include up to date contact details for CIW. Children's files contain contracts, permissions and information to care for the children attending the service.

The child minder has positive partnerships with parents. Parents that we spoke to confirmed that they are very happy with the care given. They told us that they receive updates via pictures on a private message and verbal feedback when collecting their children. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the child minder had been attending a local 'Cylch Ti a Fi' group. They had also been out to cafés, tourist attractions and shops in the local area.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. To record previous medicine dosages and previous accidents

R2. To wash her hands before the preparation of children's meals and to encourage children to wash hands before eating food.

R3. To follow all current policies and procedures for nappy changing

R4. To create a risk assessment for car journeys and outings

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

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

The child minder has not completed a recent quality of care report.	Regulation 16 (2) (a)
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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