



## Inspection Report

**Zoe Thompson**

**Amlwch**



**Date Inspection Completed**

21/04/2021

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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	This is the first inspection of this service since registration.
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No

## **Summary**

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic; therefore, we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework. We spent a short period at the setting to observe care practice and interactions between the child minder and the children in her care. We requested information from the child minder and discussed these and gave feedback during a virtual meeting.

Children are happy and have formed a warm relationship with the child minder. They enjoy their time at the service and are confident to communicate their needs. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities in keeping children safe and healthy and confident in the procedures she must follow. She is kind and supports children in a warm and positive manner. The child minder ensures the premises, toys and resources are suitable and safe for the children. Hazards and risks are monitored and managed effectively. The child minder manages her service well and understands her regulatory responsibilities. She ensures documents and suitability checks are kept up to date and that parents are kept well informed about their children's development and of any changes to the service.

## Well-being

## No Rating Required

Children are settled, comfortable and happy. They move between the lounge and the play room freely and can choose from toys and activities on offer as they are stored within their reach. They are confident to ask for support when they need it, for example if they want to play with toys stored in the garden shed.

Children have formed a warm relationship with the child minder and each other. They are eager to play and chat together. They happily chatted to the child minder about what they had done at school that day and wanted to show the pictures they had drawn. Children play alongside one another well and show genuine interest in each other's achievements. For example, when working together to decorate the garden wall with the jumbo chinks they admired each other's art work and chatted together about what they would draw next.

Children are confident to approach the child minder for comfort, and are provided with positive words of encouragement and hugs when needed. For example, they show the child minder if they have hurt themselves and are responded to warmly.

Children have a good range of experiences and are able to spend time outdoors. They use the garden daily and have regular trips to local playgrounds where they have opportunities to develop physically. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves, such as tidying up at the end of activities and putting on their own shoes and coats. This helps them to gain confidence and aids their independence.

## Care and Development

## No Rating Required

The child minder understands her responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She has recently completed safeguarding training and has a detailed safeguarding policy in place outlining the correct steps to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. She ensures regular safety checks take place, such as fire drills and daily checks of the areas used by children. The child minder accurately records all accidents and provided a sample of completed forms. She promotes healthy habits and good hydration by providing children with access to water throughout the day and asking parents to provide healthy snacks and meals for their children to enjoy while at the setting. The child minder ensures children clean their hands when appropriate, such as upon arrival at the setting, after using the toilet and before eating. However, the majority of the time this was done by providing children with antibacterial gel rather than encouraging them to wash their hands with soap and water.

The child minder has built positive relationships with the children. She is kind and friendly and deals with any unwanted behaviour calmly and fairly. She uses positive methods to redirect children if they begin to show any unacceptable behaviour. For example, when two children started to become over excited while playing with the hobby horses, she distracted them by offering to read them a story book about horses. Both children settled quickly to listen to the story.

The child minder plans a range of activities that are interesting and help children to learn and develop their skills. She plans activities in line with a theme every few weeks. Outings also correspond to this theme, which promotes sustained shared thinking and making the experiences more memorable for children. A record of children's progress is kept using detailed child development tracker booklets, where sections are highlighted whenever children show they have achieved each skill. The child minder ensures parents are kept up to date with their child's progress and important information about their time at the setting by sending regular private messages and photographs.

## Environment

**No Rating Required**

The child minder provides a clean and safe environment for children. A dedicated play room with a range of age appropriate toys and resources is available. Children can also move freely between the playroom and the lounge, where they can relax on the sofas or spend quiet time if they want to. Detailed risk assessments are in place outlining the potential hazards to children and the measures put in place to manage these risks. There is also a dedicated risk assessment and policy in place outlining the child minder's additional procedures to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19. All risk assessments are reviewed regularly.

The child minder ensures she provides a good range of toys and resources for children to choose from, including dolls, toy vehicles, tools, construction toys and arts and craft materials. Toys and games are well organised and stored in boxes stored at low level so children can reach them independently. The outdoor play area offers plenty of space for children to play and explore. There is a play house for children to enjoy as well as a range of ride on toys, bubble machines, slides and jumbo chinks for children to create art work.

The child minder has a range of equipment to aid younger children's independence skills. For example, she has toddler toilet seats and steps in the downstairs wash room so children can use the toilet and wash their hands independently. The child minder told us she rotates toys regularly in order to ensure children are provided with a variety of different experiences. She also told us she cleans toys at the end of each day, and completes a deep clean every week, although this is not recorded.

## **Leadership and Management**

**No Rating Required**

The child minder has a sound understanding of her role and regulatory responsibilities and provides a range of policies to enable her to run her service safely and effectively. These policies are clear, informative and updated regularly. The statement of purpose gives a clear and accurate description of the service offered, providing parents with plenty of information to make an informed choice. The document also reflects the new procedures put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic, keeping parents up to date with changes.

The child minder regularly seeks feedback from parents and outlines planned improvements within a detailed annual quality of care review report. Feedback provided was positive with only one suggestion for improvement made by a child, which was swiftly actioned by the child minder. In addition, the child minder identifies her own areas for improvement and works towards these throughout the year.

The child minder ensures that her own as well as household members' Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check are valid and up to date. Records provided showed that the child minder gathers all required information about children prior to them attending. This allows her to plan effectively to meet children's individual needs. Parents are also provided with a copy of all the service's policies, which they are asked to sign to show their understanding and agreement. The child minder also asks parents to sign permission slips for their children to take part in outings and activities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Parents we spoke with told us they were very happy with the service. They told us information was shared regularly about their child's development and about any changes to the service. They also said the child minder was very approachable and helpful with any queries they had.



## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1- Keeping a record of when toys and resources are cleaned.

R2- Using soap and water to wash hands when available rather than antibacterial gel.

**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**

None	
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Ratings	What the ratings mean
<b>Excellent</b>	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
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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

**Date Published** 08/06/2021