



Inspection Report

Sonia Jones

Newport



Date Inspection Completed

06/04/2022

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First inspection since registration in March 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	Working Towards. The service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or 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's wellbeing is at the heart of the setting, they feel secure, happy, and comfortable. Children form close and affectionate relationships with the child minder. They play confidently together and express themselves well in accordance with their ages and stages of development.

The child minder is supportive and responsive to the needs of the children. She has a warm caring manner and is a good role model. The child minder promotes children's learning and development, providing activities and resources that are interesting and support children in progressing their skills.

The child minder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She has implemented new policies and procedures in response to Covid19 effectively. The child minder plans for a wide variety of activities which are interesting and stimulating and capture children's imagination. Children's progress is recorded appropriately. Activities are planned to ensure children's individual developmental needs are met.

The child minder manages the setting in a highly effective way. She is extremely motivated and has a clear vision to develop the service further. The child minder works very well with parents in making decisions about their child's individual care needs. She provides parents with daily feedback and updates. The child minder works in line with her policies and procedures.

Children have choices and make decisions about how they spend their time. They move freely around the environment, choosing what they would like to play with. Children communicate confidently and know their wants and needs are considered. The children have formed strong bonds of affection with the child minder. They happily approach her for cuddles and reassurance. We saw a younger child snuggle up to the child minder as they sat on her lap and enjoyed playing with small world toys.

Children feel safe, happy and valued at the setting. Children settle easily when transitioning from one activity to another, quickly busying themselves with the activities and toys available. Children confidently chatted to us, showing they feel relaxed and secure in the child minder's care.

Children form friendships and interact well with each other. They enjoy one another's company and play happily together, sharing plenty of smiles and giggles. Younger children use non-verbal cues to communicate, they point and smile and the child minder knew what they seem to be saying. Children listen well to the child minder and, when asked, help put away toys before moving onto a different activity. Children learn to share and take turns. We saw children happily doing a messy play activity of dried oats in a large tray. They were excited when the child minder suggested pouring water into the tray to see what would happen. The younger child delighted in squishing the oats around the tray and then beaming with smiles when the oats stuck to her hands. This showed that children's curiosity is encouraged.

Children are enthusiastic, interested in their play and enjoy a good range of opportunities. They successfully learn new skills, such as communication, through activities that interest them. Children concentrate for a good length of time. We saw them contentedly setting up a toy farmhouse and playing with the farmyard animals. They invited the childminder to join in, suggesting she could pretend to be the sister. The childminder joined in, and they all smiled and laughed as they played along. Occasionally children choose to move away and access different activities such as play kitchen or the book area in the playroom.

Children are developing their independence skills well, enabling them to do things for themselves. They confidently access resources they wanted, or they ask the child minder for help if they cannot find something. Children use age-appropriate cups, cutlery to feed themselves at snack time

The child minder has all the appropriate information to keep children safe. She implements suitable measures to reduce risks associated with Covid19 in line with Welsh Government guidance. The child minder has a detailed risk assessment to guide her actions. For example, she cleans the environment thoroughly and supports children to wash their hands regularly. The minded children have individual hand towels for drying their hands. However, we noted that a communal towel was accessible. This can cause confusion in which towels that a child should use and sharing towels could cause cross contamination.

The child minder has good knowledge of safeguarding procedures. She is confident and clear about recognising the signs of any concerns and has a suitable child protection policy in place. The child minder keeps a record of all accidents and incidents, these are signed by parents. However, the child minder has not reviewed the incidents of accident and injury, in order to help to her better understand if there are any areas of concern. Regular fire drill practices are regularly carried out to ensure children are aware of how to leave the building safely in an emergency and the child minder plans and records these appropriately.

The child minder supports children to manage their feelings and behaviour successfully. Children are treated with respect and are praised for their positive actions, efforts and achievements. The child minder is a positive role model and children value the calm and settled environment she provides. She interacts with children in a kind and caring manner and is responsive to their individual needs.

Children experience a variety of interesting and stimulating activities. The child minder has begun to use observations and an appropriate system to plan for and monitor the progress of younger pre-school children. Children are encouraged to be physically active each day by visiting play parks nearby. The child minder uses basic Welsh with children using simple Welsh phrases every day.

Environment**Good**

The child minder provides a safe and secure environment for children and supervises them well. The front door is locked to restrict entry to the premises. The house is clean and well maintained. Routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are undertaken. The child minder keeps a clear record of when children arrive and leave the service. The child minder has a robust risk assessment in place which show she considers most hazards which could affect children's wellbeing. These relate to activities, the premises, fire prevention and when taking children on outings. However, the playroom window blind cords were trailing. This is a safety hazard.

The child minder's home provides children with sufficient space to play and is comfortable and welcoming. Younger children also have use of an area in the family lounge where they can relax, rest or sleep. The child minder provides appropriate furniture for children to do tabletop activities and to eat their meals. The child minder provides a wide range of toys and equipment that are suitable for children's stages of development and which she rotates frequently to provide different learning experiences. The child minder ensures the resources are well-maintained, clearly labelled and of good quality, promoting curiosity and discovery.

The garden is not currently in use as it is undergoing renovation and improvement work. Children do not have access to this area at the present time.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder manages her service well and has a good understanding of her role. She has considerable experience over many years in childcare and teaching. She keeps her training and learning up to date. There is a clear statement of purpose providing parents with accurate information about how the service runs. The child minder has the required policies and procedures in place. There is a complaints policy which is given to all parents along with a range of other policies when they register their children.

Communication with parents is good. The child minder keeps parents informed about changes to the service and also communicates regularly with them verbally, with phone calls and through text messages. Parents are happy with the service the child minder provides. Written feedback provided for the purpose of the inspection noted that parents value the support given to their children. Parents are delighted with the variety of activities that are planned by the child minder.

The child minder is committed to improving her service and actively asks for feedback from parents and children by sending out questionnaires. She is reflective and open to new ideas and ways of working to benefit the children in her care. She provides a quality-of-care report on an annual basis which includes the opinions of all those who use her service. The information received demonstrates very positive views and the service is highly recommended to others.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Ensure that any hazards such trailing blind cords are restricted and out of reach.

R2. Ensure communal towels are removed from the bathroom.

R3. Regularly review accident and injury records in order to recognise and rectify patterns of accidents and injuries.

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

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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