



Inspection Report

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Wrexham

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

07/10/2021

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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	Manual Insert Post registration visit.
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service that 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>	No Rating Required
<u>Care and Development</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Environment</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	No Rating Required

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have therefore focused on the priority areas for this service and not the full quality framework.

Children are happy and settled at this setting. They enjoy the time they spend at the child minder's home and are developing relationships with her and family members. Children are comfortable in the child minder's care. They have opportunities to play and learn, follow their own interests, develop their skills and independence. The child minder is a Welsh learner and actively promotes and supports the use of the Welsh language within the setting.

The child minder provides a relaxed and nurturing environment for children and meets their needs appropriately. She understands her responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe and healthy, and has suitable policies and procedures in place to ensure this. She is kind and caring, professional and experienced in caring for children.

The home has sufficient space for children to explore and play both indoors and outdoors. Appropriate health and safety checks are completed and the home is secure and safe. Some areas outdoors are still in need of improvement. These areas are not used by children. There are some outstanding renovations to be completed, which will not affect the child minding sessions. Children benefit from a good selection of play resources to meet their needs.

This inspection took place only three months after registering with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The child minder is already implementing appropriate record keeping systems and maintaining good communications with parents. She is a confident user of online CIW facilities and other sources of information, and is keen to develop professionally. She is keen to establish systems to monitor and review her setting annually.

Well-being

No Rating Required

Children know that when they express their feelings and make choices for themselves, they will be listened to. Those currently attending are young and use their developing language skills and non-verbal gestures to communicate their needs and preferences. They are able to follow their interests, and are free to explore the environment and select toys of their choosing. For example, a baby was able to crawl to low level open shelving in the playroom, and reach toys for themselves, and tip objects out of a basket to see what they could find.

Children are relaxed and comfortable when with the child minder, and have a good relationship with her after only a few months in her care. Children frequently giggle and laugh, and respond well when asked to help tidy up, or to get ready for snack time. Children have plenty of one to one attention, and are learning to accept that they must share the child minder's attention, and time. Children play together gently, with the older child offering the younger one cuddles and sharing nicely with them. Babies and young toddlers are often reminded to use 'gentle hands' when they play together to ensure they come to no harm.

Children enjoy their time at the child minder's home. They engage in age appropriate play, which sustains their interest for an appropriate length of time. They have opportunities to be active outdoors, with activities being dependent on their age and ability. A variety of play and learning opportunities support their development. They played with dough they had made themselves and used a variety of toys to shape, cut and make patterns. They were given sticks with the dough to make hedgehogs and when activities moved outdoors, they made a noughts and crosses game with the child minder, using larger sticks and stones. They painted, played with cars in the sand, and watched how different pieces of material moved in the wind. Children attending were under two years of age. One knew their colours in both English and Welsh, and enjoyed looking at bilingual books.

Children have opportunities to develop their skills and independence in line with their stage of development. We saw children choosing toys, one was able to sit up, and crawl towards blocks, which they tried to stack. One child used a box and found the items he needed to change it into a car by themselves. They learn to eat snack independently and to use the bathroom, however, children are closely supervised.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

The child minder understands her responsibilities in relation to children's well-being. She understands she is required to report any concerns about a child to the appropriate authorities and has attended the relevant training. She has suitable child protection procedures and effective record keeping systems, to record attendances, accidents and incidents. She has completed first aid training and maintains information on children's individual needs, and the administration of medication if needed. The child minder ensures children are familiar with procedures should a fire or emergency occur and has sought advice from the fire safety team in Wrexham, and bought additional smoke alarms for renovated and extended areas of the home. Policies and procedures were written during the Covid-19 pandemic and are reviewed and updated as needed, for example when new guidance is issued. Changes have been in relation to more frequent hand washing, regular cleaning of the premises and toys, safe nappy changing procedures and restricting access to the premises. We also heard the child minder promoting hygienic practices by asking children to cover their mouths when they coughed, and then asking them to wash their hands.

The child minder manages children's interactions and behaviour positively and effectively. She is frequently telling them to use 'gentle hands' when they come into contact with those who are very young and reminds them not to throw sand for example. Her interactions are positively kind and considerate, children therefore feel at ease and comfortable in her care. We saw her praising a baby when they stacked the blocks and thanking another child for helping to brush up the sand they had thrown on the floor. The behaviour management policy is suitable for the age range of children attending and focuses on distraction techniques and lots of positive praise. She also gives explanations to children to ensure they understand, and learn right from wrong. They are also learning to consider the feelings of others.

The child minder promotes children's play and learning in a positive way. We saw her reading stories to the children in English and Welsh, and encouraging a baby to feel the sand, touch different fabrics and to hold a brush to paint. She asked children to make patterns with the paint, and different shapes, which they did. Children knew their colours. She is developing ways to plan and evaluate activities and to record observations in children's daily diaries. She also takes photographs for her records, and to forward to parents. She understands the importance of a broad selection of play activities for children and spoke to us about various approaches, play options available and the importance of suitable resources. She offers plenty of opportunities outdoors and especially enjoyed taking the children for a walk earlier that morning to collect leaves.

Environment

No Rating Required

The home is secure and the child minder puts into place any safety measures needed, to ensure children are safe. For example, there are practical measures to restrict children's access to some areas of the home, and keys are kept close to hand in case there is a need to leave the premises. Whilst most of the garden is out of bounds, the children do have an enclosed, secure area, which is adequate for the age range of children currently attending. Indoors children have access to their own playroom and an open plan dining/ living room area with direct access to the outdoors. The child minder identifies unnecessary risk to children in these areas, and where possible minimises them. She had removed a rug and window blinds from the playroom at the point of registration. There is a general fire evacuation procedure, which she has explained and completed with children.

The home provides a homely open plan environment for children to play and relax in comfort. Some areas, particularly outdoors, need further development. Windows will be replaced and slabs laid outdoors now restrictions have been lifted. The bathroom renovation, and work on the extension are complete. There is a good amount of space for children to explore and move around freely. Rooms are well organised, well maintained and decorated to a good standard. The playroom is child friendly and attractively decorated. There is sufficient natural light and the home is organised in such a way that it provides a good range of play opportunities, which are suitable for the age range cared for. There is a downstairs bathroom next to the playroom, which is equipped with changing mats, a step for use of the toilet, and a toddler's toilet seat. Areas of the garden are used. A fence has been used to enclose a safe area. Some areas of the garden and the trampoline, are not used by minded children.

The child minder provides children with a good selection of play and learning resources to promote their play and learning needs. There are age appropriate resources to promote children's interest and curiosity indoors and outdoors. These are stored appropriately on low-level open shelving to stimulate children's curiosity and desire to explore what they can see. We saw the child minder remove a toy car from a young baby because of its small wheels, which could become loose. Most toys are accessible on open shelving units which means children are able to choose toys independently without assistance from the child minder. There is ample space for relaxing in several areas of the home and suitable tables and chairs for mealtimes. Equipment is well maintained and in good condition.

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

The child minder is establishing appropriate systems to facilitate the smooth running of her setting. She has a range of policies and procedures and willingly shares these with parents. The statement of purpose provides sufficient information, so parents are able to make an informed decision about whether or not the service is suitable for their child. Some documents are stored electronically and other records are paper based. The child minder maintains daily records to a good standard and gathers appropriate information on children as part of her registration and admission procedures. She has responded to direct messaging from CIW, and is confident when using online facilities for changes, notifications, and keeping in touch.

There are developing systems in place to identify areas for improvement and to review the setting. This child minder was registered during the pandemic and the post registration inspection was completed soon after registration. The child minder is aware she has 12 months in which to fully review her service, she will do this by seeking feedback from parents and children. She is currently focusing on completing renovation work in areas of her home, which do not affect the care of the children.

Management of the setting is effective. To safeguard children there are satisfactory, up to date disclosure and barring service (dbs) certificates for all those persons over 16 years of age living at the premises. The child minder ensures that her mandatory training is up to date so that she has the appropriate knowledge and skills to support children effectively.

Partnerships with parents are good and developing successfully. The child minder is currently caring for her own young toddler and other babies for a small number of families who are relatively new to her setting. She records how children's basic needs are met during the day in their diaries, which are sent home. She has good links with local Welsh and English medium schools, toddler groups and playgroup settings,

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 We recommended the child minder keep a record for herself of observations, comments and details of how each child's basic needs are met. A daily diary is being sent home with parents.

R2 to regularly check the expiry date of items in the first aid boxes and to include details of these checks in the appropriate risk assessment.

R3 to search for information on the CIW website to help when completing an annual quality of care review and writing a report.

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	N/A

	this inspection	
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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.

Date Published 17/12/2021