



Inspection Report

Karen Skinley

Pontyclun



Date Inspection Completed

30/03/2022

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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	12 January 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Click or tap here to enter text. No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

Summary

Overall children feel secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. They play freely and express themselves well. Children choose toys and activities from the selection available. Children have good relationships with each other and support one another well.

The setting has a range of policies in place, which promote the children's well-being. There is a caring atmosphere, and the child minder meets children's needs successfully. Activities are prepared and planned both indoors and out, for children to access independently or with support from the child minder.

Overall, the child minder ensures the environment is generally safe and well maintained. The child minder completes a range of basic risk assessments including ones for the outdoor environment. The child minder's premises is bright, welcoming, and well organised with a range of equipment for all ages.

Overall, the child minder manages the setting well and has implemented improvements following our visit. The child minder reviews and reflects upon her service and produces a basic quality of care report. The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents and local schools. We have made one recommendation at the end of the report.

Well-being

Children have a strong voice. They play freely and express themselves well. Children choose toys and activities from the selection available. They confidently ask questions and receive appropriate responses. For example, one child said, “*another one for me?*” when finishing her painting and was quickly given another sheet of paper to continue painting.

Children feel safe, happy, and valued. They are settled and content. Children know the routine well. For example, at snack time and when washing hands. Children are cared for by a child minder who knows them very well. For example, we heard children talking with the child minder about their parents and grandparents’ jobs, with one child saying, “*My mummy is the best teacher*”.

Children interact successfully, co-operating and sharing with each other. We saw two children purposefully playing together when completing a jigsaw puzzle. During a painting activity, we saw children engaged, smiling, and interacting with each other and the child minder. During rest time, one child read a story to her friends, starting “*once upon a time*” before turning and sharing the book with her friends.

Children confidently choose activities that interest them. They enjoy their play and learning. We saw a child proudly build a tall tower with plastic building blocks. Children are included in decision-making and have opportunities to take part in planned and free play activities, both indoors and out. They freely choose toys and are asked if they would like to play outside. Children skilfully use equipment and resources. We saw children competently fill plastic eggs and shake them to listen to the different sounds they make, they seek adult support, when needed, such as to close the eggs.

Children are developing their independence well, enabling them to do things for themselves. For example, we saw children taking their own coats and shoes off when returning from outside play and help tidy up prior to changing activities. They confidently access toys and resources from low-level storage and feed themselves at mealtimes. Children use the bathroom with help and are becoming confident in washing their own hands.

The child minder has purposeful policies in place, which promote the children's safety and well-being. She has procedures in place to safeguard children, appropriately answering child protection scenarios. Children's records viewed as part of the inspection showed that not all parental permissions were in place. Following the inspection visit, the child minder has confirmed that all consent forms are now fully complete. She holds current first aid and food hygiene certificates. The child minder promotes children's health successfully. There are systems in place to record accident/incident and medication administration. Although, the child minder confirmed these have not been completed recently, as they have not been required. Effective hygiene practices are in place, with regular cleaning routines. For example, the child minder supports young children when washing their hands prior to lunch time and uses wet wipes to wipe hands prior to snack times. She provides a sand timer and displays a rhyme to encourage children to wash their hands thoroughly and for an appropriate amount of time. The table is cleaned between activities and before and after food. The child minder confirmed that parents provide morning snacks and meals for children, whilst she provides an afternoon snack. The child minder has a behaviour management policy in place. She follows the policy and uses the management strategies in it appropriately, praising children for their good behaviour and encouraging good manners. For example, we heard the child minder say, "*Well done*" and "*Good girl/boy*" throughout our visit. We saw the child minder encourage children to be kind to one another, calmly supporting children to say sorry and hug one another if they had been unkind. She interacts well with the children and responds appropriately by reminding children not to throw toys. The child minder engages successfully with children, whilst promoting their learning. For example, whilst engaging in a child led story, we heard her say, "*What colour is this one?*"

The child minder is aware of the children's individual development. She knows the children very well and has a good understanding of each child's individual routine. She involves children in a variety of activities, both indoors and outdoors. For instance, we saw children taking part in a painting activity, painting Easter chicks and then using different colour paint to make an Easter wreath. A multi-sensory activity was prepared outside, with porridge oats and dried pasta. She develops themes and plans activities in advance for children. We saw photographs of children taking part in activities and events, such as World book day, St David's Day, and Pancake Day. The child minder promotes Welsh through a range of books, although no Welsh was heard. Parents know their children's progress as the child minder reviews children's development regularly. She has good working partnerships with parents and local schools.

Environment

Overall, the child minder ensures that the environment is generally safe and well maintained. For example, stair gates are in place on the doorway into the playroom. The

child minder completes a range of basic risk assessments including ones for the outdoor environment. Following the inspection visit, the outdoor risk assessment was updated to include the hot tub within the garden and an outings book has been developed. She practises regular fire drills, carries out regular smoke detector tests and maintains her records accordingly. The child minder confirmed chemicals were stored in an under-sink cupboard without safety locks. She has acted quickly to rectify this during the inspection and has fitted child locks to ensure these are not accessible to children. Suitable safety checks including boiler checks are in place.

The child minder's premises is bright, welcoming, and well organised. Equipment and resources are clean. Within the main playroom, there is low-level furniture and low-level storage containing toys and resources with floor space to play. The child minder accompanies children to the downstairs bathroom which is clean and well maintained. There is a secure outdoor play area which is well maintained and presents interesting opportunities for children.

The child minder has appropriate equipment for a range of ages. Equipment for children, such as pushchairs are stored and made available when needed. Whilst children sleep in prams or cots, they are regularly checked. The child minder offers a range of age appropriate and interesting resources which are easily accessible to the children. She promotes diversity through the resources and activities available to the children. The childminder told us about activities linked to World Book Day and we later saw pictures of children dressed up for St. David's Day.

Leadership and Management

The child minder runs her service well, she is organised and now keeps all the required records. On the day of the inspection visit, the child minder had not kept accurate attendance records with actual times children arrive and leave or record when her own grandchild was present. However, during the inspection visit, she instigated a new

recording system and indicated her practice will change. She has well maintained records, in relation to children's contracts and information. The child minder has up to date car documents and certificates such as public liability insurance and is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

The child minder has a beneficial range of policies with regular reviews in place. Following the last inspection, updates include information on Prevent Duty, a complaints procedure for children and a behaviour management policy. Following our inspection visit, the child minder has updated her Special Educational Needs policy to an Additional Learning Needs policy reflecting recent changes in legislation. The child minder has also provided an updated statement of purpose, which reflects her service, including working arrangements of term time only. All household members have up to date Disclosure and Barring Certificates and are on the annual update service.

The child minder reviews and reflects upon her service and produces a basic quality of care report. She seeks information from parents and children to support her in her evaluation of her service. The report confirms all parents and children are happy. The child minder reflects on her provision and has plans in place to develop and enhance her service. For example, she intends to attend playgroups and develop more structure with the relaxation of covid restrictions.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents and local schools. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal and private messages. The child minder also completes daily diaries, which the children take home. As part of the inspection process, we received feedback from parents through an online questionnaire. They confirmed they were very happy with the care given and felt that the child minder provided an excellent service.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Develop use of spoken Welsh within the setting.

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

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