



Inspection Report

Rebecca Coombes

Swansea



Date Inspection Completed

14/06/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	30 August 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Adequate
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children are confident that their voices are listened to. They are happy, relaxed and feel a sense of belonging at the child minder's home. Children's interactions are good. They enjoy their play activities, and their independence skills are developing well.

The child minder keeps children safe and promotes relatively healthy lifestyles. She manages interactions with children positively. The child minder enhances children's independence skills through play.

The child minder keeps the environment safe, clean, and well-maintained. The property is a clean, spacious, and comfortable environment which is suitable for children. There are a range of good quality resources for children for all ages and stages of development.

The child minder organises the setting adequately and keeps the required records. The child minder reviews and recognises ways to improve the setting. Partnerships with parents are positive. However, there are improvements to be made in relation to adult to child ratios, policies and procedures, statement of purpose and the provision of information to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

Children are confident that their voices are listened to. They communicate their preferences with the child minder. For example, children asked to play on the swings and the see saw which were acted upon promptly. Children are confident that their needs are being considered. They show the child minder what they want to play and choose their play resources freely indoors.

Children are happy, relaxed and have a sense of belonging at the child minder's home. They move around freely and help themselves to dolls, role play resources and books naturally. Children feel valued by the child minder, as they smiled at the her when she gave them praise for eating well and for playing nicely. Children feel safe and their preferences are considered. For example, they are respected to have their comforters with them for sleep and play times.

Children's interactions are good. Children show consideration towards others. For example, when a child was crying, another child comforted them and give them a kiss. They share and take turns very well. For example, they shared water play resources very well. Children's interactions with the child minder are positive. They felt comforted and at ease with the child minder when they had cuddles after a sleep. They happily interacted with the child minder during play and pretended to feed her their biscuit.

Children enjoy their play and learning activities. They were excited when they splashed their hands in the water tray with bubbles. Children engage in activities of interest for a suitable amount of time. They enjoyed watching cartoons on the television. Others engaged in small world play using the Peppa toys and moved them from one area to another in the living room. Children enjoy physical activities and fresh air. They enjoyed being pushed on the swing and the see saw and bounced happily on the trampoline. They enjoyed playing with the pasta shapes and coloured dinosaurs and attempted to sort them by colours.

Their independence skills are developing well. Young children stand confidently with the support of the water play station. They feed themselves with finger foods and drink from their own bottles. Children develop physical skills and creative skills in line with their ages and stages of development.

Care and Development**Adequate**

The child minder keeps children safe and promotes relatively healthy lifestyles. Supervision of children is good. Children bring their own lunchboxes, and a drink is always available for children. Children have healthy choices when attending playgroups. However, healthy options are not always available, and children were not encouraged to wash their hands before snack time. Many hygiene practices are in place. For example, the child minder washed her hands before preparing children's foods and wiped children's hands with wet wipes before lunch. The child minder told us that she had sanitised the dining areas during the morning. However, eating areas were not sanitised before children had their lunch. During nappy changing, the child minder used disposable gloves, and disposed of these between each change, keeping the area clean. In relation to safeguarding, the child minder understands her duty and care towards children. Potential child protection scenarios were answered well. She is aware of the procedures if there was a child protection concern. There are records of accidents, incidents, and medication records. However, there is no record of previous dosages. The child minder collects information in relation to dietary needs, medical needs and children's intolerances. Her paediatric first aid training is up to date.

The child minder manages interactions with children positively. She engages with children in a sensitive and quiet manner. The child minder knows the children well and understands their needs and acts on them promptly. She praises children for sorting the coloured dinosaurs in the tuff tray and for eating their foods well. All children feel close to the child minder and approach her comfortably; For example, when asking to go on the swing. The child minder acts on non-verbal cues of young children. She acted promptly when a young child wanted to come out of her push chair following a sleep. She laughed when the child dropped their strawberry telling them "*silly sausage*" and made them feel at ease when they accidentally dropped things on the floor.

The child minder enhances children's independence skills through play. She organises play resources indoors and outdoors according to children's interests and preferences through free play. The child minder enhances language development. She encourages children to recognise pictures in books and act on their comments whilst reading books to them. She sings nursery rhymes with children. Although there are no formal records of observations and assessments, she knows the children well and recognises and acts on children's developmental next steps.

The child minder keeps the environment safe. She keeps the front door locked during child minding and ensures there are safety gates in all areas. Indoor and outdoor risk assessments are up to date. However, there are no risk assessments for outings and car journeys. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Maintenance checks are up to date and fire drills are completed regularly and recorded. The child minder keeps a record of visitors to the setting. However, family members are not recorded on the visitors' records.

The property is a clean and comfortable environment which is suitable for children. There is a spacious ground floor which has a relaxed front room, downstairs toilet with a baby changing station, and spacious kitchen with tables, chairs, and highchair. The area upstairs is currently not used for child minding, and it is agreed with parents that children sleep in the downstairs area. The outdoor area is enclosed and locked; it's spacious and organised for all ages and stages of development. The child minder provides opportunities for children to visit local play areas and playgroups regularly.

There are a range of good quality resources for children of all ages and stages of development. Indoors they benefit from role play resources, small world play, books, push along toys, music toys and soft toys with opportunities to sort coloured toys. For outdoor play, the child minder provides a water play area, trampoline, swings, see saw, balls, hoops, easel and chalks for mark making and a small table and chair for colouring. There are some resources which promote cultures and diversity.

The child minder organises the setting adequately. She has a statement of purpose which meets many regulations and national minimum standards. However, it does not reflect the national minimum standards ratio requirements for child minders, and current mandatory training is not correctly reflected. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Policies are regularly reviewed. However, the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) policy is not updated with the most recent ALN framework for Wales. The child protection policy does not include the 'All Wales Safeguarding Procedures' and information in relation to prevent duty in relation to radicalisation.

The child minder has established a suitable system for ensuring that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, insurances, children's contracts and permissions are in place. The child minder keeps the required documents. She has suitable records showing the children who are in attendance at the setting with exact times and dates. However, the number of children cared for in relation to the children's ages does not comply with regulation and national minimum standards. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder has systems in place to review the quality of care. She collects the views of parents and children on how she runs the setting. This includes potential aims, improvement and positive comments made by parents. There are arrangements in place to deal with potential complaints and concerns.

The child minder has completed the Self-Assessment of Service Statement and has informed CIW about a property move since the last inspection. However, she has not informed CIW of temporary closures to the setting and changes to the conditions of registration had not been actioned prior to the inspection process. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

Partnerships with parents are positive. Parents are very happy with the care given to their children. They feel the child minder connects well with children and their children love going to the setting, as she is kind, caring and loving. They said she greets children with a smile and a cuddle, and they feel their children are safe. The child minder and parents told us that the children enjoy the outdoors, as she takes them to playgroups and local parks. The child minder connects with parents via online webform app to share information and pictures with them and these permissions are given by parents.

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
6 (3) (a) [i]	DBS renewals	Achieved
24 (2) (b)		Achieved

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
15	Ensure the statement of purpose is updated to include information that currently reflects what is offered by the setting.	New
27	To ensure the ratio of adults looking after children meets the requirements of the national minimum standards	New
25	Ensure there are risk assessments for outings and car journeys	New
31	Ensure that all changes to the setting is updated on the online account for the setting	New
	SOP not meeting regulations	Achieved
	keeping of records	Achieved

Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
Standard 12 - Food and drink	To implement the Welsh Government's Food and Nutrition guidance for childcare settings
Standard 4 - Meeting individual needs	To create a policy that is in line with the additional needs framework
Standard 10 - Healthcare	To ensure children always wash their hands before eating
Standard 20 - Child protection	To ensure the safeguarding and child protection policy includes information in relation to the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and information in relation to Prevent Duty and radicalisation.
Standard 20 - Child protection	To ensure safeguarding training is updated regularly
Standard 11 - Medication	To ensure previous dosages are recorded on medication forms for children

Where we think it helpful, we may make best practice recommendations. These are to encourage settings that are doing well to become even better at helping children thrive.

Best Practice
Recommendation(s)
To become aware of the requirements of the national minimum standards

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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