



Inspection Report

Tina Brown

Blackwood



Date Inspection Completed

17/10/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	07 August 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	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>	Excellent
<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 have excellent opportunities to make choices and follow their interests. They are very confident and relaxed and enjoy their time at the setting. They have strong bonds with their friends and the child minder. Children enjoy their play and learning and the range of activities the child minder provides. Children are developing their independence well.

The child minder understands her role in keeping children safe and healthy. She provides safe and nurturing care. The child minder manages interactions well and uses positive strategies to support children's behaviour. The child minder knows the children and their individual needs very well. The child minder provides a good range of activities that children find engaging and promotes their learning and development.

The environment is welcoming, safe, and clean. It provides children with a light and bright area to play, with a relaxed 'home from home' feel. The child minder provides good resources and facilities which enables children to take part in a variety of different activities. She makes good use of the local area to provide enriching outdoor experiences.

The child minder is experienced and well qualified. She has a clear vision for her service, placing children's wellbeing at the centre of all she does. She manages the setting successfully and has built very positive partnerships with parents.

Children consistently receive good opportunities to make choices and decisions at the setting, their voice is strong. We saw children choosing when they wanted to eat, what toys and activities they wanted to play with and how they would spend their time. Children's views are always considered when planning activities and projects. They are extremely confident in communicating their wants, needs, thoughts and ideas. We saw children confidently chatting with the child minder about the activities they were engaged with and eagerly inviting her into their play. They know the child minder fully considers them and is very interested and responsive to their needs.

Children are extremely happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They feel safe in the child minder's care. Children benefit from very strong bonds of affection with the child minder who knows them well. We saw children seeking hugs and cuddles from the child minder and laughing and joking with her whilst they carried out an activity together. We heard children reminiscing with the child minder about shared memories of happy times at the setting.

Children develop friendships with each other at the setting. They play happily with or alongside each other, depending on their age and stage of development. We saw older children being kind to each other and sharing together, respecting each other and the resources available to them.

Children are highly motivated and engaged in their play and learning. We saw children enjoying the resources and eagerly choosing what they were going to play with. We saw children of various ages taking part in a variety of activities. For example, children excitedly engaged in the pumpkin decorating activity with the child minder, children playing independently at making potions in the mud kitchen and children enjoying playing on apparatus in the local park.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills, appropriate to their age and stage of development. We saw children feeding themselves, putting on their coats, and learning about road safety during the school pick up.

The child minder has a good understanding of her role and responsibility to keep children safe. She has a very clear understanding of safeguarding issues, the signs and symptoms of abuse, and her own duty to report any concerns. She has up to date mandatory training including safeguarding, paediatric first aid and food hygiene. The child minder encourages health and hygiene at the setting. For example, we saw her encourage children to wash their hands after playing outdoors and before food was served. The child minder carries out regular fire drills with the children ensuring that they are familiar with what to do in an emergency. She has appropriate systems in place to record accidents, incidents, and pre-existing injuries. The child minder has a good knowledge of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. She keeps registers of children's attendance. The child minder has a range of risk assessments in place. She also proactively identifies and manages emerging risks very well. The child minder ensures children have access to regular outdoor play experiences, both in her garden and in the local area. This offers children the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air.

The child minder is very responsive, caring, and warm in her interactions with the children. She is a good role model and uses plenty of praise and encouragement to support children and reinforce positive behaviour. Her positive, cheery attitude permeates the setting and sets the tone for interactions. The child minder has a good understanding of children's development and varying needs and how these can impact on behaviour. She uses this knowledge to consistently implement positive behaviour management strategies appropriate to the needs of the children in her care.

The child minder knows children and their individual needs very well. Children with additional learning needs are supported appropriately and she ensures they receive care which meets their individual needs. The child minder naturally extends children's play and learning through conversations as she shares activities with them. For example, we heard her discussing colours with a child whilst they were painting and then encouraging them to think about the Welsh words for the colours. The child minder keeps photos and observations of children's activities on the Family app and shares these with parents. She has a good understanding of children's levels of development and any health needs. However developmental records, updated health information and next steps are not formally recorded on children's files. The child minder uses incidental Welsh with the children.

The setting is very safe and secure. The external entrance is locked, the child minder ensures only authorised access and keeps a record of visitors. The back garden is securely fenced. Routine safety certificates are up to date. Safety precautions are in place throughout the downstairs of the house. For example, safety gates are in place to restrict access for children to the stairs. Risk assessments for the environment are highly effective and the child minder completes safety checks daily. Minded children do not access the upstairs area. The child minder uses her car for pickups from local schools. She ensures MOT and insurance certificates are up to date and uses appropriate safety seats.

The home environment is warm, comfortable, and very well maintained. It provides children with a light and bright area to play. They benefit from a 'home from home' atmosphere, allowing them to relax as well as play and learn. Children have access to the playroom and kitchen. The kitchen is used as a room for eating, playing, and as a room for art and craft activities and messy play. Children are always supervised in the kitchen. There is direct access to the garden area from the kitchen and children access the garden freely. The garden area is extremely inviting to children and contains different areas for play and learning. For example, we saw children enjoying playing with construction vehicles in the sand tray, others relaxing on the decking area, whilst another proudly showed us the play shed. The toilet area is adjacent to the kitchen and easily accessed by children promoting their independence.

The child minder provides a wide range of good quality age-appropriate toys and resources. Resources are well-organised, and many are accessible to the children. Other toys and resources are stored and easily accessible and rotated regularly to suit the ages and interests of the children present. For example, we saw the child minder bring the doctors bag out when children wanted to play with it. All resources are of a good quality and well maintained.

The child minder has a clear vision for her service, she is passionate about supporting the highest levels of wellbeing and outcomes for the children she cares for. The child minder organises her setting well. The required policies, procedures and risk assessments are in place, they reflect current practice and are regularly reviewed. However, at the time of inspection, the safeguarding policy did not reflect the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures or specific steps that the child minder would follow. There is an up-to-date statement of purpose, which is compliant with regulations. Public liability insurance is valid. Children's contracts are well organised and contain parent consent forms and all the necessary information about children to care for them safely. Documents are stored securely.

The child minder seeks the views of children and parents as part of her self-evaluation and planning for improvement. She completes an annual quality of care review of her service. The child minder is fully engaged with the inspection as part of her self-evaluation and improvement. The child minder is well-qualified and experienced in child development and committed to her own continued professional development. She has regularly undertaken additional training to further increase her skills and knowledge. The child minder manages her time and resources well.

The child minder has very strong partnerships with parents. Parents gave us feedback that they are extremely happy with the standard of care given. They told us their children are extremely happy at the setting and the bonds of affection, and patience and kindness she shows towards them is reassuring. They feel at ease knowing their children are cared for in such a positive and nurturing way. The child minder has strong links with other child minders in the area and with the Local Authority which she uses to support the development of her practice.

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
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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Ensure children's development, next steps and up to date health information are consistently recorded on children's files.
Standard 20 - Child protection	Update Safeguarding policy to reflect the All Wales Safeguarding Procedures and the specific procedures followed.

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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Date Published 07/12/2023