



Inspection Report

Margaret Davies

Welshpool



Date Inspection Completed

09/02/2023

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Manual Insert] 14 June 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	Manual Insert] 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.

<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 centre of the setting, they feel secure, happy, and comfortable. Children form close and affectionate relationships with the child minder.

The child minder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She has effectively implemented new policies and procedures. The child minder loosely plans for a variety of activities which are interesting, stimulating and capture children's imagination.

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 childminder provides a safe environment but there is scope to further enhance this area by providing a wider range of easily accessed resources.

The child minder manages the setting effectively. She works well with parents in making decisions about their child's individual care needs and provides them with daily feedback and updates. The child minder works in line with her policies and procedures.

Children have good opportunities to make choices and decisions. They move around the playroom easily and select from a selection of toys and resources, which they can access freely. Children have formed affectionate relationships with the child minder. They happily approach her for cuddles and reassurance. We saw children snuggle up to the child minder as they sat on her lap.

Children are forming positive relationships with their peers in line with their age and stage of development. Interactions are consistently positive. Children are at ease and comfortable engaging with the child minder in their play activities. They are polite, show good manners and respect resources. Children welcomed us with smiles and then settled quickly back into their activity. They have access into the garden area. Children thoroughly enjoy their play. We saw one child playing with the medical role play area in readiness for a dental appointment.

We saw children taking part in activities including imaginative play and colouring in. The children were involved in choosing the activities and we saw them able to sustain their interest for a reasonable amount of time. The children were happy playing independently but also with the child minder.

Independence is encouraged throughout the sessions with children going to the toilet alone and feeding themselves. However, it was noted that highchairs were used at meal times and craft times, this hindered some independence skills.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder understands her responsibilities in relation to children's safety and wellbeing. She keeps appropriate records of the administration of medication, accidents and incidents. The child minder recognises her safeguarding responsibilities. She has a child protection policy with references to the procedures to follow should a referral to children's services be required.

The child minder has a written behaviour management policy and the strategies outlined in it are developmentally appropriate in line with children's level of understanding. The child minder applies a positive approach when managing behaviour, modelling appropriate behaviour herself. She told us about using distraction methods when any minor arguments occur. She praises good behaviour and offers encouragement to support children's self-esteem and confidence.

The child minder promotes children's play and learning well. She plans activities in line with children's individual needs and abilities. The child minder emphasises children's emotional well-being and provides space and time for them to develop their communication skills. She knows the children well enough to be able to understand their needs, even if they cannot vocalise their feelings to her in a fluent way. The child minder's interactions with children are consistently warm and nurturing. She supports children effectively, helping them when necessary.

Environment**Good**

The child minder's home is safe and provides a secure environment for children. There are safety measures to ensure children have limited access to some areas of the home. For example, children cannot access the upstairs of the property unsupervised. The front door of the property is locked, non-essential visitors do not enter the premises. An annual safety service check of the gas boiler has been conducted and certification is documented in the child minder's operational file. The child minder identifies risks and has a range of written risk assessments to ensure children's safety. She undertakes regular fire evacuation drills with the children, so they are familiar with procedures. Reviews of risk assessments on all areas used for child minding are carried out regularly.

Children benefit from a 'home from home' environment that is child friendly. The child minder's home provides an appropriate amount of space. Children can play and explore in comfort and the environment meets their needs. There is a good standard of décor throughout with sufficient natural light. Externally, there is an outdoor area, with an area designated especially for child minding.

The child minder has an adequate array of toys and materials, which are well maintained and clean. There is a range of toys and equipment for babies/toddlers including shape sorters and musical toys. There is also a range of outdoor toys in the garden.

Leadership and Management**Good**

The child minder is aware of her responsibilities in relation to her child minding business. She has a good selection of written policies and procedures to support her setting and shares key documents with parents. The statement of purpose provides sufficient information about the setting, enabling parents to make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. Documents are stored securely, and the child minder shares her written data protection policy with parents. The child minder completes daily records in a timely manner and individual children's contracts contain relevant information.

The child minder manages her childminding business effectively. There are up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates for all persons over 16 who live at the premises, however this needs to be updated. She takes training and development of her practice seriously and has up to date core training. In addition, she undertakes a range of other courses to extend her knowledge of childcare issues.

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.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. To ensure activities help encourage independence skills.

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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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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