



Inspection Report

Martina Thomas

Neath



Date Inspection Completed

18/08/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	14 September 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates 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>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the child minder's home. They are excellent communicators and curious learners, consistently making choices about what they do and how they spend their time at the setting. Children engage in purposeful play-based activities and are confident the child minder and her assistant will listen to them.

The child minder provides a warm and nurturing child-centred setting. She has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs and their development, and she plans effectively. The child minder promotes positive outcomes for children through her current knowledge and skills and her nurturing and caring attitude.

The environment is spacious, clean and secure. The play area is welcoming and friendly and provides a rich environment for play and learning. There are excellent resources and equipment which meet the needs of the children and the child minder identifies any unnecessary risks to children and eliminates them as much as possible.

The child minder is very dedicated and clearly enjoys her role. Her vision and sense of purpose sustains improvements and promotes excellent outcomes for children. The child minder maintains the required records and has excellent organisational skills. She complies with all regulations and exceeds the national minimum standards. She has good partnerships with parents who speak very highly of her.

Well-being

Excellent

Children are excellent communicators and have a very strong voice. They are confident making their own choices about what they want to do and where they want to play. Children's opinions and interests are highly valued and acted upon and they successfully retrieve resources from other areas to use in their play. For example, one child took the toy food they had cooked outside to their den indoors. Children express themselves confidently and know they will be listened to. For example, they choose what toys to play with and said when they were ready for snack time.

Children are relaxed and settled at the setting; knowing the child minder and her assistant respects their feelings and concerns. Children benefit from their consistency, and this means they are building positive bonds of affection with them as they receive lots of attention and praise. Children clearly have a strong sense of belonging and are forming strong relationships. They are very familiar with the routines and the environment. They know where to find the resources and confidently help themselves. For example, when children wanted some craft resources, they knew which box they were in.

Children's behaviour is exemplary and the interactions between them are extremely positive. They are forming authentic relationships; thinking about each other and doing things for their friends. For example, one child wanted a picture and asked a friend *"Can you help me find one?"* The friend immediately stopped what they were doing and responded, *"Yes, come here, Tina got them from here. We can share them."* Children have an excellent range of opportunities to engage in self-directed play as well as directed activities. For example, children were engrossed in a craft activity and enjoyed spending time with the child minder and her assistant.

Children are very curious learners and are extremely motivated and engaged in their play and learning. For example, some of the children enjoyed playing 'families' and created a space in the playroom as their home. They looked after their babies, cleaned and ate food. They were immersed in their experience for an extended period and thoroughly enjoyed using their imaginations. Children move independently between the indoor and outdoor environment. They take part in activities confidently and feel a sense of achievement. They are excited to talk about what they have been doing and enjoyed telling us about their gardening experiences.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills through a wide variety of purposeful activities. This enables them to do things for themselves successfully and to problem solve effectively. For example, when a child asked for the road safety equipment, the child minder encouraged the child to take part in setting it up; using their own ideas. Children make excellent progress and are confident to try new activities.

The child minder and her assistant, have an excellent understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children. The child minder and her assistant implement the Welsh Government's Food and Nutrition Guidance for Childcare Settings and they have completed the Healthy and Sustainable Preschool Scheme Award, demonstrating their commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, safety and well-being. They carry out regular cleaning and follow good hygiene procedures; for example, they consistently remind children about washing hands. The child minder has a thorough understanding of her responsibilities to protect children. She answers confidently about what to do if she had any child protection concerns. The child minder accurately records children's attendance times and promptly fills in accident sheets and pre-existing injury forms, sharing the information with parents.

The child minder and her assistant are excellent role models, they interact positively with the children and foster strong relationships with them. Their interactions are consistently engaging, demonstrating warmth and kindness. They offer praise and encouragement, and prompt "*please*" and "*thank you*" when appropriate. The child minder consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies. She speaks softly to the children and uses positive reinforcement as well as stickers. She is calm and caring at all times and children follow her instructions well. Children share the resources extremely well with each other. For example, when playing 'hairdressers,' they shared the accessories with one another and took turns. There was lots of laughter and chatter as children ran around the playroom enjoying their play and laughing at the child minder assistant's jokes.

The child minder ensures children are at the centre of their own learning and development; supporting their choices and allowing them endless opportunities to explore and experiment by following their own interests. She knows the children extremely well and the child minder, along with her assistant are highly motivated and allow children to extend their play. For example, they notice when a child plays in a particular schema, and they provide further opportunities throughout various activities to support that child in their preferred way of learning. They effectively respond to children's interests and ideas, which ensures they successfully follow the children's lead. The child minder promotes the Welsh language well in the setting. There are bilingual labels and posters in the playroom as well as Welsh resources. The child minder consistently uses Welsh throughout the session and is committed to developing her Welsh language skills through training.

Environment**Excellent**

The child minder has effective procedures to keep the environment safe for children. The environment is safe, secure and extremely well maintained indoors and outdoors. The child minder keeps a record of visitors to the property and has effective risk assessments in all areas used for child minding. She regularly carries out safety checks and effectively organises consistent cleaning routines that reflect excellent infection control practices.

The child minder provides a very stimulating, spacious, and accessible area for children to enjoy their play by ensuring the premises are warm and welcoming. There are lots of pictures of the children on the walls as well as displays of their artwork. The children have a strong sense of belonging and feel valued in the child minder's home. The child minder ensures children have the freedom to safely explore the indoor and outdoor environment when they choose. The door from the inside playroom to the outside play area is open throughout the session; allowing children to move freely between the two environments and choose for themselves where they want to play. The outdoor area provides extensive play opportunities through the use of different areas. The outdoor cabin provides additional learning spaces for children and the trampoline supports children with additional needs. There is also a climbing frame, and a patio area where children can enjoy the ride on toys, as well as a forest area where children are supported to develop their gardening and forest school skills.

The child minder provides an extensive range of high-quality resources and equipment. Children have access to a wide range of play opportunities including role play, craft and sensory experiences that are age and stage appropriate. There are child sized tables and chairs as well as larger comfortable sofas and furniture which provide a space for older children to rest on and sit at for their activities and mealtimes. There is a diverse selection of resources which include colouring, painting, messy play activities, vehicles, small world resources, games, jigsaws and books. Resources are plentiful and in excellent condition. The outdoor area, including the cabin and various equipment extends children's play experiences further through messy play, construction play and a home area for cooking. The child minder is knowledgeable about managing risks and supporting the children to make their own choices.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder has an exceptional vision that she communicates effectively with her assistant, creating a very positive ethos where all children feel valued and important. She manages her business successfully and strives to promote excellent outcomes for children. The statement of purpose is very comprehensive, clear, and informative and fully informs parents and carers of the service she provides. The child minder ensures she achieves extremely high standards, delivers high quality care and provides valuable learning and development opportunities for the children. She is very efficient, extremely organised and places great importance on ensuring she runs an inclusive service. All of the required child records and documents are in place and the child minder ensures she completes them in detail. The child minder is registered with the Information Commissioners Office and her insurance and car documents are valid.

The child minder implements effective systems to support meaningful self-evaluation and improvement. She is extremely approachable and welcomes any ideas or suggestions to improve her practice. The child minder's quality of care report is excellent. It is well-written and considers the views of children as well as parents and carers. Her review highlights her strengths, and the child minder also identifies areas she would like to build on.

The child minder manages her business effectively and obtains the necessary checks. She ensures that all household members have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. She fully understands her responsibility to inform CIW of any changes to household members. The child minder is confident to set high expectations and regularly meets with her assistant to exchange meaningful information, cascade training and share ideas.

The child minder has developed excellent partnerships with parents. She is committed to working together to promote the children's well-being. She ensures communication systems with parents and carers are inclusive, and she keeps them well informed. Feedback from parents is extremely positive and includes comments such as, *"I wish I found you sooner!"* *You have helped us navigate the scary journey of parenthood – thank you!"* and *"You have become more than child minders you feel like part of the family!"* Comments from children include, *"I love you!"* and *"I miss you!"* The child minder has strong links with a wide range of professionals and the community, she supports local initiatives and works closely with other stakeholders to promote positive outcomes for children.

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
28	The child minder did not have a current DBS for a house hold member over the age of 16 years	Achieved
30	The child minder did not record the arrival and departure times of children being cared for	Achieved
	The child minder had not risk assessed the gallery landing.	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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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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