



Inspection Report

Penni Barnikel

Pembroke



Date Inspection Completed

08/03/2023

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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	01 August 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	This service offers Flying Start places.
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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.

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

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

Summary

Children of all ages are extremely happy and settled in this child minder's care. They show delight and enthusiasm in their play activities. They have excellent opportunities to influence their play and learning, and their needs are met consistently.

The child minder provides kind, calm and nurturing care. She uses effective, positive behaviour management techniques and overall, follows good procedures to keep children safe. The child minder provides a range of fun and stimulating activities for children, and she is developing her observation and planning for children's next steps of learning and development.

The environment provides a broad range of stimulating play opportunities to children, both indoors and outdoors. It is spacious, clean, well-maintained and supports children's independence. The child minder takes action to remove or reduce risks in the environment and she is developing her written risk assessments.

Overall, the child minder manages her setting appropriately. She has a clear vision for the service she provides and makes improvements. She has suitable systems in place in many areas of the management of the setting but some of the records and policies don't fully meet regulations and national minimum standards. The child minder has strong partnerships with parents.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children are very confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are fully considered. Children can communicate in their language of choice, either Welsh or English, and their requests are listened to and acted upon consistently. For example, a child preferred to do a 'fist bump' rather than a 'high five' and was delighted when they were able to do this with the child minder as a celebration. Children have a strong influence on the activities and environment. They helped design and plan a new 'sensory path' in the garden, including discussing their ideas with the builder who created it.

Children clearly have a strong sense of belonging as they form close relationships and are very familiar with routines. They are entirely comfortable in the child minder's care, and they are confident in sharing how they are feeling. Older children chat happily with the child minder and show a strong attachment to her, talking enthusiastically about experiences they have had in her care. Feedback from parents confirms that children are extremely happy and relaxed in this childminder's care.

Children interact very well with each other. Older children show clear empathy with others and younger children show understanding of other children's needs. For example, a young child used a gentle voice to call a crawling baby over to join in an activity and the childminder told us that when older children help plan the environment, they always give consideration for what the younger children would like. All children respond very positively to the child minder.

Children are self-motivated to initiate their own play and to influence their tasks and activities because child-led activities are a priority. Younger children choose their play activities for a large part of the day, such as role play and dressing up. Older children plan what they are going to do after school with excitement, such as, building models and putting on a play. Children have excellent opportunities to experience a wide range of exciting play opportunities, such as treasure hunts, planting activities, cooking, and trips in the community.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do things for themselves successfully and to problem solve effectively. They develop creatively and can be imaginative. For example, older children created board games for younger children. Parents are very pleased with how well their children develop in the child minder's care.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder follows effective procedures to keep children safe and healthy. She completes regular training in safeguarding, paediatric first aid and food hygiene. The child minder has a suitable understanding of her responsibilities in relation to child protection and she has good procedures in place to ensure children's individual medical needs are met. Overall, she keeps appropriate records in relation to accidents and medication. However, the medication records do not contain information about the last dose given by parents, and the medication policy does not specify that this is a requirement. The child minder follows good hygiene processes. For example, she keeps surfaces clean, encourages children to wash their hands regularly and uses aprons and gloves when nappy changing. The child minder places a high importance on a healthy lifestyle by making outdoor play an integral part of her care, encouraging healthy eating, and providing a range of fruits to children as snacks.

The child minder consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies. She has a good understanding of children's individual development and speaks with them in an appropriate manner. She interacts kindly and calmly with children and is a very good role model. She gives regular praise to children and provides gentle and effective distraction to redirect children's attention positively, where necessary. Parents told us the child minder works very effectively in partnership with them to meet children's needs.

The child minder has good processes in place to monitor children's development which include regular observation. She is adapting her activity planning in line with the new Curriculum for Wales and is taking opportunities to attend additional training on this. She has a good understanding of children's development and discusses this with parents. The child minder also told us that she has completed training on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code. She supports children well to develop their play, such as fully engaging in role play and hide and seek games. She seizes opportunities to develop children's individual skills, using strategies suitable for their age and stage of development. For example, she supported children's physical and creative development by enthusiastically encouraging younger children to squeeze pegs to make a dinosaur spine and squeeze play dough to make a dinosaur shape. The child minder uses the Welsh language regularly with children and supports them to communicate in their preferred language. She positively promotes the Welsh language and culture.

Environment**Good**

Overall, the child minder ensures the environment is safe. She supervises the children well and ensures that the environment is secure from unauthorised access. She arranges regular safety checks on the environment and conducts regular fire drills with the children in her care. There are written risk assessments in place but, at the time of our visit, these did not cover all areas of risk. In practice, the child minder was mindful of the risks and had already taken action to reduce these. She started to update the risk assessments following our visit.

The child minder provides a rich environment for children's play that is effectively planned to meet their needs. The environment enables children to confidently move around and access resources independently. The child minder provides an inviting, comfortable and spacious environment, including a well-resourced playroom, lounge area and dining area for mealtimes and table-top activities. She has made improvements to the environment since the last Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspection, including changing the toilet and bathroom into one room and developing the outdoor area. The outdoor area provides exciting opportunities for children's play and includes a screen for painting, a mud kitchen, a sensory path, and a large shed which is used as an additional play area during summer months. The outdoor area is used as an extension of the indoor environment.

The child minder provides a good range of resources for different ages. She changes the environment and resources regularly to ensure they are interesting and stimulating for children. For example, the role play area was set out as a home during our visit and it had previously been a shop, and there was a range of resources available based on a theme of dinosaurs. The child minder told us that the children help her to choose the resources when they are rotated on a termly basis. She includes resources to promote diversity and cultural awareness as an integral part of her practice, such as language games and puppets, dolls, and play food from different cultures. All resources we saw during our visit were clean and in good condition.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder has a strong vision for her setting which she communicates with others. She aims to provide quality home-from-home care, and this is evident in her statement of purpose, policies and practice. The child minder's statement of purpose contained clear information about the child minder's aims and objectives. However, some of the other information contained within it was not current, such as information about measures in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic. The child minder updated some policies during the course of the inspection and overall, policies are now appropriate and meet regulations. For example, the nappy changing policy and behaviour policy are clear and centred on the needs of the child. However, the medication policy does not specify obtaining information about the last dose given by parents or ensuring that medication is named. The safeguarding policy is generally suitable, but it is not entirely clear regarding the action to be taken if an allegation is made against the child minder. Although the child minder updated her complaints policy following our visit, it does not include information about concurrent consideration. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder manages her business appropriately and keeps suitable records, such as records of children's needs and attendance. There were some records missing during our visit, including a contract for one child and details of one child's doctor. The child minder arranged for these records to be put in place immediately after our visit. The child minder ensures that she updates Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, insurance and her training as required. She ensures that she operates within the terms of her registration.

The child minder completes an annual quality of care review and report, and she seeks the views of parents and children as part of this. The quality of care report provided at the time of our inspection visit was basic and very similar to the previous report. However, the child minder was committed to ongoing improvement of her setting. She had made a number of improvements to the environment, and she is reflective on the service she provides, making changes to meet children's needs as necessary.

The child minder establishes strong partnerships with parents. She keeps in regular contact with them about their children's well-being and development, and parents are extremely happy with the service she provides.

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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36	Ensure the complaints policy includes information about complaints subject to concurrent consideration.	New
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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 1 - Information	Update the statement of purpose to ensure it fully reflects the current service provided.
Standard 11 - Medication	Ensure that information is sought about the last dose of medication given by parents and reflect this in the medication policy.
Standard 20 - Child protection	Update the safeguarding policy to ensure all the information is up to date and clear.
Standard 24 - Safety	Expand the risk assessments for the setting.

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)	
Further develop the quality of care review and report process to make it more meaningful.	
Further develop planning for children's next steps in development and learning, considering the Curriculum for Wales where appropriate	

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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