



Inspection Report

Susan Blaney

Ferndale



Date Inspection Completed

04/11/2021

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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	11 March 2016
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. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people/children who use, or intend to use the service

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have therefore focused on the priority areas for this service and not the full quality framework.

Children very much enjoy their time at the child minder's home and benefit from a good selection of play opportunities. They have a warm relationship with the child minder and enjoy playing with and developing friendships with their peers.

The child minder provides a welcoming and 'home from home' experience for children who use her service. She is responsive to children's needs and interactions between herself and children are consistently positive. She understands her roles and responsibilities in relation to children's welfare and promotes their well-being effectively.

The setting is secure and suitable for children. There is sufficient space for children to play and explore in comfort and a good selection of play resources are available. The child minder has appropriate health and safety checks and maintains the home to a good standard.

Leadership of the service is effective. The child minder understands her responsibilities in relation to maintaining a registered child minding service. She has appropriate record keeping system and a good range of operational policies. Parents are very complimentary about the child minder and value the service she offers.

Well-being

Children are happy and settled at the setting. They have a warm relationship with the child minder and interactions between them and the child minder are very positive. Many children have attended the child minder's service for a number of years and in that time developed strong relationships with her and other children who attend. We observed respectful and informal conversations between children and the child minder and noted that they were very comfortable and at ease in her company.

Children have a good voice at the service and their attempts at communication are valued and respected. They are confident speaking up and telling the child minder what they want and like to do. For example, when given a choice of what they wanted at mealtime, children spoke up, declining some food and asking for other options. They make choices and decisions freely in relation to their play and are consulted and asked their opinion in relation to purchasing of new toys.

Children very much enjoy the play opportunities they have. All children currently attend on a part time basis, either before or after school, so time at the child minder's home is limited. However, they enjoy the time they do spend with her and told us that they like to relax when they arrive from school and enjoy playing board games. They engage readily in play activities and spend a good length of time playing independently and with their peers. We observed children playing board games and pretend play with small toys, chatting happily to each other whilst they did so.

Children interact well with each other in line with their age and stage of development. They take turns, listen to what others have to say and play well together. They sit nicely together at meal times making it a sociable time for all. They are respectfully of toys and resources and are polite to one another. They have good opportunities to follow their interests and develop their independence. They select resources independently and follow their play preference and choices.

Care and Development

The child minder understands her responsibilities in relation to children's welfare and well-being. She has appropriate recording keeping systems and operational policies and procedures to support her practice. In light of current circumstances, there are adjustments to infection control and cleaning routines in order to ensure children's health and safety. There is restricted access to the home for non - essential visitors and increased hand washing routines. There is a written child protection policy and the child minder understands she has a responsibility to contact appropriate authorities if she has a concern about a child's welfare. She provides healthy, home cooked meals and a system for recording children's specific dietary requirements. The child minder has scheduled paediatric first aid training in early 2022 and as an interim measure has completed an online course to update her knowledge.

The child minder manages interactions effectively. There is a written behaviour management policy and strategies are consistent and appropriate for the age range of children who attend the service. The child minder is a positive role model, treating all children with respect and kindness. She shows interest in what they are doing, and this fosters children's self-esteem and confidence.

The child minder promotes children's development and individual needs in a positive way. She fosters a caring and nurturing environment in which children feel comfortable and at ease to express themselves. We observed warm interactions with children and noted that the child minder was interested in what children were doing, and listened to what they had to say. She understands the importance of children following their interests and play is child led. She does not maintain development records as all children who attend are in full time school. There are opportunities for children to attend play schemes with the child minder during the week and children have access to a good selection of play activities. However, currently there are no written activity records to show the breadth of play opportunities available to children.

Environment

The home is secure, safe and suitable for children. There are appropriate safety measures to ensure that risks to children are minimised. The child minder has a range of written risk assessments. However, risk assessments for play activities are limited and there is no fire safety assessment for her child minding setting. Safety checks are up to date and fire evacuation drills completed at suitable intervals to ensure that children have an understanding of what to do should an emergency arise.

The child minder offers a 'home from home' environment with sufficient indoor space for children to play and learn in comfort. The home is welcoming, with a good standard of décor and is well maintained. Internal spaces are child friendly and considered from a child's perspective. There is imaginative use of a small alcove in the living room, which is equipped with a reading nook and space for storage of toys. Children are readily able to locate resources, as they are stored in boxes and at a suitable height for children to reach with ease. The kitchen is of a very good standard and recently refurbished providing a nice area for meal times. Children have opportunities for outdoor play as there is a small outdoor area accessed via the kitchen. This space is enclosed and covered so that children are able to play outside irrespective of the weather.

The child minder ensures that children have access to good quality resources that are age appropriate and suitable for their needs. There is a plentiful supply of board games and books for all ages, including some cultural resources. There is also a sufficient supply of small toys and art and craft materials so children have a range of different play activities available to them. There is comfortable seating for children to relax and appropriate furniture for mealtimes and table - top activities.

Leadership and Management

The child minder operates her child minding business to an appropriate standard, in line with regulations and national minimum standards. She has a good range of operational policies to support her service, although a small number of them have incorrect details for Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The statement of purpose provides clear information about the service and what the child minder offers. As a result, parents are able to make an informed decision about the suitability of the service for their child. There are appropriate record keeping systems, and records are maintained to a good standard.

There is a system in place to monitor and review the service in order to plan improvements. The child minder completes an annual review of quality of care report and consults with parents, children and agencies as part of this process. She recently completed a review report and submitted a copy to CIW as required, using methods such as questionnaires to obtain the views of parents and children..

The child minder manages her service appropriately. There is timely completion of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for persons over 16 years of age who live at the premises. The child minder notifies parents when she is not available so they can make alternative childcare plans and has arrangements in place should an emergency arise. She is aware of her responsibility to maintain her childcare knowledge and undertakes training to support her practice, for example, in relation to safeguarding of children.

Partnership with parents is strong and the child minder has a positive relationship with families who use her service. She keeps parents informed and up to date of changes to the service and parents we spoke to confirmed this. We spoke to four parents as part of the inspection. All were very positive about the child minder, commenting on how much their children enjoy attending and the child minders professionalism.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Develop planning records to show the range of play activities available.

R2. Develop risk assessments including a fire safety assessment for child minding premises in line with recent guidance.

R3. Undertake a full paediatric first aid course as soon as possible and notify CIW when completed.

R4. Ensure policies have the most up to date information for CIW.

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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this	N/A

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