



Inspection Report

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Porth



Date Inspection Completed

24/02/2022

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	7
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	26 May 2021
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. This is a service that 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 their service.

Summary

Children are happy and settled at the service. They have interesting play experiences making their time at the child minders, fun and stimulating. There are strong bonds and warm attachments with the child minder and children are comfortable and familiar with routines of the home. There are good opportunities for children to develop self-helps skills and they enjoy being independent.

The child minder enjoys her role caring for minded children and enjoys supporting and promoting their play and learning. She works in partnership with parents to promote children individual needs and monitors children's development to ensure they receive appropriate support.

The environment provides sufficient space indoors and outside for children to play in comfort. There is a good range of play resources to support their play. Recent improvements to the garden and purchase of additional outdoor resources further enhance children's outdoor experiences.

Leadership of the service is effective. The child minder has appropriate record keeping systems to support her child minding business and up to date training to support her practice. Partnerships with families are strong and well established. Parents are highly complimentary about the service and the support she offers their children.

Well-being

Children have a good voice at the service and their communication is valued and respected. Activities are child-led with a focus on children directing and making decisions regarding what they want to do. They are confident to speak up and express their choices and the child minder respects their wishes. For example, a child spoke up to say what books they wanted read to them and the child minder supported their choices.

Children benefit from an interesting range of play opportunities and have fun at the service. For example, a child was excited about going to play outside and were similarly excited about a reading activity, confidently selecting their favourite books for the child minder to read to them. Children have opportunities to be active, alongside time for quieter activities. They concentrate for good lengths of time on their chosen activities in line with their age and stage of development. During story time, they listened intently and sat for a considerable length of time listening to different stories, confidently joining in and answering questions.

Children are content and settled. They are familiar with routines of the home and know where resources are. There are displays of children's art – work, giving children a sense of pride in their accomplishments and a sense of belonging. We noted that a child was very proud of a painting they had produced and was keen to take it home with them. Children enjoy the child minder's involvement in activities and there are strong bonds of affections. For example, a child sat close to the child minding during an activity, and we heard warm and engaging interactions throughout the inspection.

Children enjoy being independent and doing things for themselves in line with their stage of development. For example, children know where toys are stored and confidently select ones they want to play with. At lunchtime, they enjoy developing their self-help skills with guidance from the child minder. They put on their coats and shoes independently before going outside to play with the child minder giving gentle guidance for children who are still learning these skills.

Children are learning to share and show kindness and consideration towards others. For example, a child kindly went and got a bobble hat for a younger child. At lunchtime, they sat at the table, chatting to the child minder, making this time a sociable event. They show consideration towards resources caring for them appropriately.

Care and Development

The child minder has a good understanding of her responsibilities in relation to keeping children safe and healthy. She provides varied and healthy meal options and identifies, and records children's specific dietary requirements. For example, we saw information on allergens and records on children's dietary needs. The child minder understands her safeguarding role, completing relevant training to ensure her knowledge is current on this subject. She has an appropriate safeguarding policy and procedure to support her practice. There is an appropriate medication procedure and forms for recording medication administered. The child minder maintains appropriate accident records and shares these with parents. In light of current circumstances, the child minder has implemented changes to infection control procedures. She has a Covid-19 policy explaining action to take and changes to practice, although there is no detailed Covid-19 risk assessment. The child minder has current paediatric first aid training and has the knowledge to deal with minor injuries.

The child minder supports children's interactions and social behaviour in an effective and positive way. She has an appropriate behaviour management policy outlining strategies to support children. These are suitable and appropriate for the age of children who attend the service. She is a positive role model for children, speaking kindly and respectfully to them at all times. She understands the importance of supporting and working with children to develop their understanding of appropriate social behaviour. For example, during activities she introduced the concept of kindness and friendship when reading a story about animals to a child.

The child minder promotes children's play and development to a good standard. She has a clear understanding of children's individual needs, confirmed by parents. There is a system for monitoring and tracking children's progress to identify their needs. Activity planning indicates a good range of play opportunities for children to support their learning, including children's understanding of the world. For example, we noted that the child minder incorporates cultural and historical events, such as Martin Luther Day, Chinese New Year and World Book Day into her planning. This broadens children's knowledge and understanding of different cultures. During engagement with children, she is gentle and supportive, fostering a calm and nurturing environment in which children feel comfortable and at ease.

Environment

The premises provides a welcoming 'home from home' environment for children. There is sufficient space allowing children to play in comfort. There is good natural light and the kitchen is equipped with a good - sized table and suitable seating so children can eat in comfort. The living room is child friendly and considered from a child's perspective with most toys easily accessible in storage boxes. In addition, there is an indoor/outdoor area immediately off the kitchen providing extra valuable space. The garden has undergone considerable improvement since the previous inspection, benefiting from new fencing to provide greater privacy, in addition to new artificial grass, with a soft underlay for safety.

The home is secure for children. There is timely completion of utility safety checks and regular fire evacuation drills, so children know how to vacate the home in a safe way. The back garden benefits from secure fencing, but some improvements are required in relation to repair of a step and restricting access to a narrow space where equipment is stored. There are written risk assessments covering most aspects of the service. There is room to extend these further and to include a fire safety assessment for child minding premises in line with recent guidance. Safety precautions are in situ restricting children's access to the kitchen and the upstairs of the home.

The child minder has a good selection of toys and equipment that are appropriate, fit for purpose and in good condition. There is a wide supply of small toys and learning resources, together with age appropriate books, including some cultural books. The child minder recently purchased new outdoor equipment to enrich children's play experiences. These include foam blocks and a substantial climbing frame equipped with two swings. There is comfortable furniture for relaxation, as well as smaller table and seating for younger children who attend.

Leadership and Management

The child minder is experienced and very committed to the families who use her service. She has established record keeping systems to support the smooth operation of her child minding business. For example, there is a comprehensive and well - organised policy file and parents receive information about key policies and procedures. The child minder has a system for gathering details on children and completes contracts with parents as part of the admission process, although at present there is no regular review of these documents. The statement of purpose provides sufficient information about the service. This means that parents are able to make an informed choice about its suitability for their child.

The child minder manages her service effectively. She understands the importance of notifying parents in advanced of planned holidays or closure to the service, so they can make alternative childcare arrangements. There is prompt and timely completion of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all persons living at the home who are over the age of 16 years. There are arrangements in place should an emergency arise, with family members available to step in and support the child minder should such an event occur. She is diligent in relation to ongoing professional development to ensure that her knowledge is current. For example, alongside core training she undertakes additional training to develop her practice.

The child minder has a system for monitoring and reviewing her service. She consults with parents and children, sending out questionnaires to assess how happy families are with her service. At the end of this process, she produces an annual review of quality of care report service, although currently there is limited information in the report on feedback from parents and children.

Partnership with parents is very strong. We spoke to a number of parents and asked for their views of the service. They were very positive and complimentary about the child minder's service. They spoke highly of the care she provides their children with comments including 'She goes above and beyond.' Parents confirmed that children have a good variety of indoor and outdoor play experiences, that the child minder is very good at meeting their individual needs and that their children are happy, settled and enjoy attending. Parent questionnaires also indicate a high level of satisfaction with the child minder's service.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Review records such as contracts regularly.

R2. Extend risk assessments to cover all aspects of the service.

R3. Address hazards in the back garden to minimise risks to children.

R4. Include additional feedback from children and parents in the next review of quality of care report.

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 inspection	N/A

Date Published 24/03/2022