



Inspection Report

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Caernarfon



Date Inspection Completed

19/01/2022

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	19 January 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No The 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.

Summary

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

Children are happy; they play confidently together and in the child minder's company. They express themselves well in accordance with their ages and stages of development. A good, varied range of interesting activities promote children's natural curiosity to learn through play. The child minder is kind, caring, knows the children well and is considerate of their needs and preferences. The premises are clean, secure and provide space and facilities for children to develop and learn. The child minder has responded to guidance published regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and has taken action to minimise potential risk to children. The child minder has a clear understanding of her role in managing the service. She makes positive changes to improve practices and has strong, effective partnerships with parents.

Well-being

Children choose what they want to do, such as playing with the toys they like. They make their own decisions; eating what they want and letting the child minder know when they have had enough. Children's ideas are listened to and what they have to say is responded to positively; for example, the child minder reads the stories children ask for.

Children are settled and feel secure. They are comfortable in the child minder's company and sit on her knee or snuggle in for a cuddle when they all sit together. Children smile as they play together and feel valued when the child minder listens to them and answers their questions.

Children are learning how to interact positively; they are forming friendships with each other and respectfully address the child minder as Aunty Amy. With a little prompting, they show good manners by asking to leave the table when they finish eating. Children listen to instruction and are happy to help put away toys when asked. Children enjoy their play and learning; they choose their favourite toys when they arrive from school and confidently name the different dinosaurs as they play. Children look pleased with themselves when through determination, they manage, to turn the winder on the helicopter to make it work. They smile broadly when the child minder praises them for their achievements.

Children are developing skills of independence; those who are able use the toilet facilities on their own and they all wash their hands before eating their lunch. Children use their imagination well. For example, they pretend toy stack up cups are telephones and do their best to use Welsh words in a conversation they have with the child minder. Children make the child minder a (pretend) cup of tea whilst playing in the home corner and place a doll gently in the buggy for a sleep. Children's language skills are developing through the conversations they have with the child minder and each other.

Care and Development

The child minder understands her role in keeping children safe. She revises her Covid 19 policy regularly in line with Welsh Government guidance. Attending safeguarding children courses enables the child minder to follow safe practices should she have a concern. Her first aid certificate is up to date so she could administer basic first aid when needed. There had only been cause to record and share two accidents with parents. Since our visit, daily attendance registers are now completed. The child minder promotes healthy lifestyles and makes sure children have plenty of opportunities to spend time outdoors in the fresh air. Healthy eating is encouraged and she explained the foods she bought and prepared for children with specific dietary requirements. Fire drills are undertaken monthly so children know what to do in the event of an emergency.

The child minder engages positively with the children and respects what they say at all times during our visit. She clearly explains what is expected of the children which results in good interactions. The child minder leads by example and never misses an opportunity to thank children for being kind, sharing or showing good manners. All interactions with children are at their level, using language they understand in gentle and calm tones. This works extremely well, and positive interactions happen as a result.

The child minder knows the children well and respects their preferences. For example, children's sleep patterns are followed and food preferences are adhered to. She plans for children's play and learning experiences making sure activities are varied to maintain children's interest. Detailed and colourful photographs of children enjoying the activities show them, for example; visiting a woodland and jumping from log to log, practising their pedalling skills on ride on toys and visiting a library. During our visit, the child minder sings Welsh nursery songs and uses Welsh intermittently during play, to familiarise the children with the language. The child minder is responsive and puts her arm around them naturally as she reads a story. She engages well with the children all of the time during our visit, talking to them and making sure they have what they need and they are happy.

Environment

The child minder makes sure the premises are secure, safe and clean. For example, apart from our inspection, parents and visitors are not allowed access during child minding hours. The child minder makes sure children are diligently supervised when using the highchair with detailed risk assessments being revised and updated during the year. The Covid 19 risk assessment evidences how the child minder manages and where possible eliminates potential infection, in line with Welsh Government guidance.

The child minder provides care for children on the ground floor with all areas used, light, bright and clean. There is a designated play area within the living room which is well set out with toys and resources located within children's reach. The ground floor is open plan and provides plenty of space for children to move around and enjoy their play experiences. The enclosed rear garden is designed to make the most of the available space to encourage children to learn and explore in the fresh air. The environment provides children with a sense of belonging with their photographs and craft work displayed.

The child minder ensures the environment and resources are clean and in good repair. Toys and equipment are good quality and promote children's play, learning and development. Outdoors they can play pretend in the mud kitchen and learn how to plant and grow flowers and fruit. A nature shelf displays the items children have found or collected when out walking such as pebbles, shells and an old, disused bird's nest. A wide choice of wooden toys shows the child minder promotes the use of sustainable materials.

Leadership and Management

The child minder works with due care and attention in order to meet minimum standards and regulations. The statement of purpose provides parents with the information they need to decide whether the service suits their child's needs. Although the child minder has learned to speak Welsh she does not fully provide the Welsh Government's 'Active Offer' as policies and procedures are available in English only at this time.

The child minder submitted the required CIW online documentation in 2021. This included a quality of care report noting children and their parents' views. All feedback was positive. For example, children wrote *'This is me and you Amy taking a walk together. There is a rainbow because we are happy'* and *'Thank you so much for taking care of me this year. You have always been such great company and you are always there when I need you'*. Parents confirmed they were 100% satisfied with her reliability, flexibility, sharing information and availability. The child minder is committed to making positive changes for the children's benefit. Improvements since her last inspection include; fitting a cover over the outdoor play area so children can keep dry in wet weather, new equipment for outdoor play and a downstairs toilet and handwashing facility.

The child minder makes sure both her own and household members' Disclosure and Barring Service certificates are current. During lockdown she made the most of online training offered and completed many courses relating to her child minding role. To further her knowledge, the child minder will be starting a degree course in child psychology this year. She continues to make sure her mandatory training is kept up to date and told us she enjoys caring for children.

The child minder has established positive partnerships with parents. She engages well with them to deliver the care their child needs through clear and informative communication. The child minder strengthens relationships through organising successful events bringing the children and their families together. For example, parents noted in their questionnaires to the child minder *'You offer a mix of indoor and outdoor activities, and my xxx loves all of the special events you do such as sports day, festivals and parties'*. Such events greatly enhance children's understanding of being part of their community and the wider world.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

None

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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