



Inspection Report

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Pontyclun



Date Inspection Completed

18/01/2024

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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	28 March 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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

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

Summary

Children are happy and settled and enjoy their time at the setting. They are confident to express themselves as they are consistently listened to. They have strong bonds with the child minder and make friends at the setting. Children are developing their independence and are enthusiastic about their play and experiences.

The child minder understands her role in keeping children safe and healthy. She manages interactions in a positive manner and is consistently warm, patient and kind. The childminder knows children and their individual needs well. She plans activities and visits that meet the children's needs and interests.

The setting is safe and secure. It is clean, warm, comfortable, and well maintained. It provides children with a light, bright area to play in a 'home from home' atmosphere. The child minder provides good resources and facilities for children to be cared for.

The child minder is experienced and qualified and maintains her mandatory training. She has suitable policies and procedures in place; however, some policies and procedures require review. The childminder manages the setting successfully and has built very positive partnerships with parents.

Children are happy and relaxed at the setting. They are settled and have a strong sense of belonging. They play happily in the playroom choosing their own toys from the selection available. Children know the routines well which makes them feel comfortable and secure. They are confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are considered by the child minder. For example, they approach the childminder to ask for snack when they are hungry.

Interactions between children are good. They cooperate successfully with the other children that attend. For example, an older child is sensitive to a younger child's needs and wants. They are careful to include them by getting them their favourite toy to play with and include them in dressing up activities. They are happy to approach the child minder for support in their play. For example, a child asks for help from the child minder to dress up as their favourite superhero character. Throughout the day they approach the child minder to seek comfort if needed.

Children are happy in their play and engage in their own activities or with a friend. Children concentrate well, sustaining interest in the things they've chosen to do. For example, we saw one child concentrating on moving the character during a small world play activity. Children develop good confidence levels and self-esteem. In the role-play ice cream stall, a child enjoys serving us with ice cream.

Children are developing independence skills appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, older children access the toilet independently. They naturally try to do things independently before asking for help, such as wearing their coats before going outdoors, and eating fruit at snack time. Children move freely within the indoor area, accessing resources independently and following their own interests. They are confident communicators and are happy to chat with us. Children told us that they enjoyed their time at the setting and shared their views about the toys they like playing with.

The child minder follows procedures to keep children safe and healthy. She has a good understanding of child protection and attends regular safeguarding training. The child minder keeps a record of incidents and accidents, including times and dates which parents are informed of and required to sign. The child minder follows her medication policy consistently and completes written medication records. However, she has not always used the forms consistently for non-prescribed medications. The childminder encourages healthy eating by providing healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables. She also details varied and balanced meals on her menu although no meals were prepared on the day of the inspection.

The child minder is caring, motivated and committed to meeting children's individual needs. She is sensitive to the wants of children, providing appropriate care and affection. She gives hugs when needed to provide comfort and reassurance. The child minder manages children's behaviour naturally as part of the organised day-to-day activities. For example, she praises a child for wearing their coat using language such as "well done". The child minder is consistent in her approach to behaviour management through use of positive language and through setting realistic boundaries such as reminding children to share and to take turns using the toys. She includes children in her decisions by discussing the house rules with them.

The child minder knows the children well and has formed positive bonds with them. She ensures new children settle quickly at the setting by collecting information about the children's needs as well as their likes and dislikes and communicating with the parents. She plans activities such as arts and craft, story and singing to develop children's skills. The child minder has a good knowledge and understanding of child development. This is evident in the weekly planning of activities which is theme based. She ensures children experience a range of activities based on celebrations. For example, she plans craft activities to learn and celebrate Diwali, Easter, and Saint Davids' Day. She observes children and uses photographs to record their achievements. She plans purposeful activities which include visits to the local area such as wildlife areas, farms, and indoor play. The child minder uses some incidental Welsh with the children and attends local groups to join in group activities using Welsh.

Environment

Good

The environment is safe and secure for children. For example, the child minder ensures that all access doors are locked with keys located out of children's reach. She keeps a record of all visitors to the setting and locks are fitted on outside gates to ensure a secure play area for children. She completes fire drills approximately every six months. However, they are not regular enough to benefit all children that attend the setting during all the sessions offered, and records are not kept in a logbook. The child minder ensures the environment is clean by following good hygiene procedures and carrying out regular cleaning. However, she has not completed the Public Health Wales infection control audit that informs best practice in relation to hygiene and in particular, pets in the house. Risk assessments are in place for indoors and outdoors and these inform the daily checklist which are used to identify unnecessary risks to children and that these are eliminated, as far as possible.

The child minder provides care in a warm and welcoming home. She ensures the environment is well organised which enables children to move freely between the kitchen / dining room, playroom, and lounge. Older children access the downstairs toilet independently. She keeps most resources in the playroom at a low level so that children can access and use them independently. She displays some educational posters to support children's learning. The outdoor area was not in use during the inspection due to the inclement weather. The child minder ensures this area is also well equipped and we saw photos of children playing outdoor, enjoying activities such as role play, water play as well as physical games and activities. Children choose their own play activities and move into the lounge for more space or if they want to relax on the sofa.

The child minder provides a range of suitable age-appropriate toys and resources. All resources are organised and accessible for the children. For example, children have access to games, puzzles, and role-play toys. Other toys are stored and rotated to suit the ages and interests of the children present. All resources are of a good quality and well maintained. Multicultural resources are used to stimulate children's knowledge and curiosity about the wider society, promoting equality and facilitating learning about cultural awareness.

The child minder organises her setting well. Most of the required policies and procedures are in place. However, there is no pet policy in place, and other policies which were discussed have not been kept under regular review. For example, the relevant policies do not include the current Additional Learning Needs (ALN) code of practice for Wales. The child minder has a safeguarding policy in place and understands her duty in relation to safeguarding children. She has a detailed statement of purpose, which meets the requirements, and this was updated during the course of the inspection in order to reflect changes to the setting. Public liability insurance is valid. Records about the children are completed, organised, and include contracts, children's information forms and parental consents.

The child minder is experienced and enjoys her role. The quality of care report for the setting is reflective. The childminder uses the views gathered from parents and children to inform her evaluation of the setting. She is a member of an umbrella organisation and is registered with the information commissioner's office. The child minder is appropriately qualified and has completed the mandatory training required. For example, she holds an appropriate first aid qualification and food hygiene certificate. She has an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Service certificate (DBS) to confirm her suitability as a registered child minder and also ensures all necessary DBS checks are in place for household members. The childminder ensures the suitability and maintenance of her vehicle which is used to transport children.

The childminder has strong links with the local community through regular visits to local children's groups and activities. She collects children from the local schools and has built up a relationship and routine with them over her years as a child minder. The child minder has strong partnerships with parents. They receive information via private message, photos, and information via a Facebook page, as well as verbal feedback when collecting the children. We saw feedback from parents that was very positive about the setting. For example, parents' comments included "I highly recommend Tina" and "I can't recommend her enough".

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
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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 11 - Medication	Review the medication policy and ensure that written permission and records are always maintained.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure children are familiar with the fire evacuation procedures by including all children in the practices and keep records in a fire logbook.

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)
Complete the Public Health Wales infection control audit tool and establish a pet policy.
Review policies to ensure they reflect current practice and guidelines.

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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