



Inspection Report

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Pontypridd



Date Inspection Completed

11/10/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 October 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.

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<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<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 are settled, have good opportunities to make choices and are confident in their environment. They are happy and have strong bonds with the child minder which helps them feel safe and valued. Children are relaxed in her company and enjoy the time they spend in her care. They thoroughly enjoy learning through play. Observations were limited due to the number of children present on the day of the inspection.

The child minder provides responsive care and supervision to children. She has recently attended relevant training courses to ensure she can keep children safe and is aware of her responsibilities towards supporting children's welfare and some of their development. Her assistant has also updated his training courses.

The home provides sufficient space for children to play and explore in comfort. The space is clean, pleasant, welcoming and in good repair. Children benefit from a broad range of suitable resources to promote play.

The leadership and management is mostly effective. There are adequate policies and procedures in place, however the child minder needs to update them to ensure they are current. Almost all records and recording systems are sufficient. There is a system for monitoring the quality of care provided by the service, and the child minder has good relationships with the children's parents.

Well-being

Good

Children make constant choices and enjoy the time they spend at the child minder's home. They are confident to speak up and make their needs and wishes known, and all forms of communication are respected, we saw one child point to the television and collect their chair, ready to watch it. They have opportunities to follow their play interests and to make decisions and choices about what they like to do. For example, a child confidently indicated that they wanted more paint.

Children are very content and settled. They have developed reliable relationships with the child minder, and assistant, and are confident to approach them both for guidance or reassurance. For example, when a child was using stamps with paints they paused and wanted reassurance, and were told '*that's fine!*' When eating lunch a child called to the child minder to help them, and they offered her the spoon.

Children interact positively with the child minder and are used to the routines of the setting, including tidying up before lunch. Children find great enjoyment in their play and concentrate on activities for an appropriate amount of time. We saw children were active and curious throughout the inspection. They move freely around their play space, choosing the toys and activities that fill the playroom. We saw children enjoy playing with the farm animals and barn on the table with the child minder, and at other times playing contentedly alone.

Children have opportunities to develop new skills and practice some independence. For example, one younger child helped themselves to their drink bottle, and when eating used their fork to eat the pasta and vegetables. Children are given time and space to select their own toys and follow their own interests, supported by the child minder and/or assistant when required. A younger child picked up a doll and cuddled it, showing that they are beginning to role play with affection.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has suitable knowledge of how to keep children safe and healthy. She understands the principles of child protection and safeguarding and has recently undergone refresher training; as has her assistant. The child minder has policies on internet safety, safeguarding, suspected terrorist attack and 'Prevent' with printed guidance to follow if she is concerned. The behaviour policy identifies the actions to use for children aged under three, aged four years and over eight. The child minder used gloves when nappy changing; however, did not wear an apron, as stated in her policy. She confirmed that she wore an apron when preparing food, but we did not see this when she made the children lunch.

The child minder has permissions in place from parents for various events such as outings and transport, and for children's emergency medical treatment. Accidents and medication records are completed although medication administered did not contain the last dose given at home. This has now been rectified. The medication policy also states that the child minder is happy to administer non prescribed medication; a revised policy has now been received which has been made clearer when this can happen. Incidents are not recorded.

The child minder treats children warmly, with dignity and respect. The child minder takes account of the children's age and understanding. We saw the child minder was positive and warm when talking and playing with the children. She used praise for positive actions such as *"Oh that's clever, really clever!"* when playing with the paints and stamps. We saw the child minder playing and reading books with the children. One child called the child minding assistant into the playroom, to play with them. We saw British Values posters, and it was pleasing to see Black History month celebrated with pictures and information on the conservatory windows.

The child minder provides a caring environment for children and mostly promotes their development. She knows the children well and considers their interests and abilities. This helps the children to respond well, be interested and engaged in their play and learning. The television was left on during an activity, which became a distraction to a child whilst the child minder was reading them a story. No developmental records are used at present with the younger children; however blank development sheets are in place, and the child minder told us that these will re-commence. We did not hear the child minder using Welsh as part of the daily routine, although she stated that she had talked about the weather in Welsh in the morning, and Welsh is mostly used later in the day.

Environment

Good

The child minder cares for children in a clean and safe environment. The child minder has annual and weekly risk assessments in place for the home and outdoors, however, despite being reviewed recently some still refer to Covid measures in place at the height of the pandemic; this includes the use of masks etc. Updated risk assessments for the garden and car were forwarded after the visit; however, the car risk assessment requires more detail regarding leaving children unattended in a vehicle. The fake grass used outside in the summer month is being risk assessed before next summer.

A visitor's book is available; however, the assistant was not recorded as present when child minding takes place; evidence was received that this is now in place. It now has the times when he has sole responsibility for the children being minded, but not their names. The child minder has smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide alarm in place. The child minder undertakes regular fire drills with the children. The child minder maintains relevant insurances and an annual gas and log burner safety certificate for her home. She has attended a recent Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Coshh), and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

The facilities and equipment provided meet the children's needs. The home is welcoming and friendly, appropriately maintained, and there is a good standard of cleanliness and repair throughout. The main play spaces are the playroom/conservatory, dining area and garden. The child minder has decorated the playroom in an inviting, child-friendly way, with an Autumn display, posters on the windows of colours, numbers, and the alphabet, some of which were in Welsh.

Small tables and chairs allow younger children to sit at the table to complete activities, and if they wish to rest, a settee is available. Older children use the dining table for activities and for eating. A clean, hygienically maintained toilet and hand washing facilities are available on the first floor, which older children can use independently, and which has a step-up stool for younger children and paper towels. Safety gates are in place where needed.

Children have access to toys and equipment that are appropriate and suitable to their needs. A large number of resources are stored within the play space, which were adequate for the age and interests of the children attending, and some are stored low for easy access. The child minder has other resources in the enclosed garden. For example, there is a summerhouse, with a fridge that older children can use, a gazebo, large building bricks, a mud kitchen and a see saw. The garden is accessible directly from the play room, however, the exit, which had fire exit over the door, was blocked.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder had a Statement of Purpose in place which contained the information required; however, it was still reflective of Covid measures that were in place during the pandemic. A revised Statement has now been received. The setting has policies in place that are mostly appropriate, although they all required reviewing and updating to ensure the information is current.

The child minder has robust procedures in place to ensure she is suitable to care for children. The child minder and relevant members of her household have current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in place. The child minder has all vehicle documents in place to ensure the safe transportation of minded children.

The child minder has an assistant, who works alongside her at times, but may also work alone with the minded children. She had a staff file for the assistant; however, this did not contain proof of identity and a recent photograph or a self-medical declaration of health. The medical declaration has since been completed. The child minder had conducted one supervision with her assistant; however, this needs to be performed on a more frequent basis. Yearly annual appraisals were completed as a self appraisal by the assistant, however, this is the responsibility of the child minder.

The child minder identifies children's needs and preferences ensuring suitable quality care is provided. She has records for minded children which contain all the information required, including contracts, including sleep arrangements which are completed appropriately. Information sheets completed by parents inform the child minder about their child in 'All about me' sheets.

The child minder makes sure children and parents benefit from a setting which is committed to good standards and improving outcomes for children. There is a quality-of-care review in place to ensure that the child minder undertakes formal self-evaluation on an annual basis, as required by the regulations. The child minder gives parents and children questionnaires annually, and the plan includes an action plan on improvements, and what is working well. However, the report in 2018 and in 2017 all state; 'more ethnic and outdoor toys to be purchased'. All questionnaires completed by parents were complimentary about the child minders service. There have been no complaints regarding the service.

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
28	Provide a file on assistant (DBS and first aid n place) to include 2 references, medical declaration of health, and full CV without gaps, Supervisions and appraisals were not conducted.	Achieved

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 10 - Healthcare	Those responsible for the preparation and handling of food wear an apron to prevent cross contamination.
Standard 9 - Behaviour	Any incident is recorded and the parent informed of the incident on the day it occurred.
Standard 24 - Safety	Fire doors are neither obstructed nor propped open; and fire exits are clearly identified and easily opened from the inside.
Standard 13 (Child Minder) - Suitable Person	Ensure proof of identity and a recent photograph is available for the child minding assistant.
Standard 13 (Child Minder) - Suitable Person	Provide supervisions more frequently, and conduct annual appraisals.
Standard 24 - Safety	Risk assessments of the premises is completed at least annually and is reviewed when there are any changes to the premises or the needs of the children. An action plan with timescales identifies action to be taken to minimise identified risks.

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)
Add the children's names to the assistant child minder's register, whenever he is responsible for children.

Review and amend policies on a regular basis.

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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