



Inspection Report

Debra Barrett

Porth



Date Inspection Completed

18/09/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	26 May 2017
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>	Adequate
<u>Environment</u>	Adequate
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Adequate

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

Summary

Children enjoy their time with the child minder. They are happy and relaxed in their relationships her, showing significant trust and warmth. Children make choices freely and interact well with each other. They are interested and happily investigate their environment.

The child minder is kind, caring and interacts well with the children in her care. She has some understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She manages children's behaviour kindly and fairly. Formal activity planning and tracking of children's progress require developing.

Overall, the child minder provides a suitable environment for the care of children. It generally meets children's needs and is comfortable and bright. She provides a range of well-maintained resources that are suitable for children of different ages. The child minder needs to take action in relation to some aspects of safety.

The child minder sets clear aims to meet children's needs and follows her written policies and procedures. She operates suitable systems for record keeping. She ensures that ratios are always adhered to. She understands the importance of working with parents to ensure the well-being of the children in her care.

Children have a good sense of belonging and express enthusiasm towards the child minder and her home. They communicate their needs in an age-appropriate way and move around the home freely. Children make decisions about how to use resources. For example, we observed a child using early language to ask the child minder to take the wheels off a motorbike. Older children chat happily with the child minder.

Children are free to explore their environment and spend time on activities that interest them. They are self-motivated to initiate their own play using the resources available to them. Children of all ages are settled at the setting. They look to the child minder for affection and reassurance in a variety of situations including when they are tired. Older children greet the child minder warmly when she collects them from school.

Children behave and interact well for their ages and stages of development. They develop positive, healthy relationships with their friends of all ages. Children take delight in playing together with cars and a garage and show lovely affection through giving each other tickles. Older children enjoy helping younger friends, for example by helping them take their shoes off. Children are very familiar with the daily routines and take part in these confidently. They speak very politely to each other and the child minder. They share resources sensitively.

Children are free to explore their environment and spend time on activities that interest them, which encourages them to learn and develop. Children of all ages are content with the resources and activities available to them. Younger children enjoy zooming toy vehicles around the room and spending quiet time watching the TV while cuddling the child minder. Older children told us they like to colour and watch videos on their phones while spending time at the child minder's home.

Children are encouraged to do as much for themselves as possible. Older children access the toilets and wash their hands independently. Younger children respond well to encouragement to be independent, for example by trying to put their own shoes on and opening their own water bottles. Children of all ages work together to solve problems such as getting a car out from underneath a piece of furniture.

The child minder implements some procedures to meet children's care, safety and well-being needs. She demonstrates effective hygiene and infection control measures such as ensuring that she and the children wash their hands regularly. Children eat food provided by their families; the child minder straps young children securely into a highchair to eat. She ensures that children always have access to water and encourages regular drinking. She changes nappies as requested by parents rather than following best practise guidelines. She does not record these nappy changes. The child minder has a detailed knowledge of safeguarding. She is confident to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care. The child minder has a paediatric first aid certificate. She has a suitable medication policy. She has appropriate forms for recording and informing parents of accidents, injuries and pre-existing injuries. However, she advised that she has not had to do this for many years. The child minder supervises children appropriately. She does not carry out fire drills and therefore children are not aware of how to evacuate the home in the event of a fire or an emergency. This is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder is kind and caring. She engages children in conversation and demonstrates politeness and respect in her interactions with them. She follows her behaviour management policy and implements positive strategies to support and guide children. She provides reasons for behaviour changes such as "*No don't throw, it's dangerous to throw, isn't it!*" The child minder supports children to interact appropriately through encouraging sharing and turn-taking. For example, through reminders such as "*We have to share*". She encourages and praises children for their efforts and positive behaviour. The child minder promotes children's well-being through warm interactions such as counting their toes together.

The child minder knows the children and their interests well. She provides a suitable range of resources for children to let their interests lead their play. She takes younger children to meet with other child minders to provide them with additional interaction with other children. She does not formally plan activities. The child minder does not keep assessment records to identify children's specific needs and plan for their next stage of development. The child minder provides feedback to parents through text messages and phone calls.

Environment**Adequate**

The child minder's home is very clean, bright and well-decorated. She has undertaken some risk assessments for all areas of her home, although these do not identify risks and only state measures used to keep the home safe. However, the child minder told us of some situations where she does not follow these safety measures. She does not ensure that cleaning products are stored out of reach of children, and she failed to identify emerging hazards such as coats trailing across the bottom stair. She was not using a child's car seat in line with manufacturer's guidance as the padding had been removed from the headrest. These are areas for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. She ensures that almost all required routine checks for her home are undertaken; she was not able to provide a gas safety certificate during the inspection visit.

The child minder provides children with room to play in a welcoming, comfortable lounge. It is decorated in calming, neutral colours and provides a suitable area for children to play. There is a dining table and chairs for children to colour and draw, and low sofas on which to relax or sleep. In the bathroom, children are provided with individual hand towels, soap and a step stool. This allows them to be independent when washing their hands. There are well-maintained gates between the kitchen and lounge. The child minder confirmed children do not use the garden, but they regularly access local parks.

The child minder provides a range of clean and varied resources in the playroom. She cleans them regularly using appropriate methods. Resources are largely age-appropriate and generally meet children's needs. There are arts and crafts resources for older children to use independently and younger children with support. Resources are stored effectively to allow children to see what is available for them to use.

The child minder manages her setting adequately and has the required policies and procedures in place. However, several of these require updating to ensure all elements of the regulations are met. We have not issued a notice on this occasion, as there was no immediate impact or risk for children using the setting. We expect the child minder to take action to rectify this and it will be followed up at the next inspection. Her statement of purpose provides an accurate picture of how the service runs. However, the child minder did not ensure that Care Inspectorate Wales had the latest copy of this document. Her car has business insurance, tax and up-to-date MOT certificates. She maintains records appropriately; all required information kept for children is stored and managed securely. The child minder regularly reviews contracts with parents to ensure that they are accurate and still contain the correct information. She gathers permissions to cover a range of scenarios such as car travel, outings and emergency medical care. The child minder records the arrivals and departures of children accurately but does not record visitors to the home.

The child minder carries out an annual review of the service. However, she does not have systems in place to obtain the views of parents and children using her service and thus their opinions are not considered in her annual review. The child minder submitted her Self-Assessment of Service Statement (SASS) on time to Care Inspectorate Wales. She has a complaints policy available for parents; she has not received any complaints.

The child minder is qualified and has undertaken a range of courses to develop her knowledge and enhance her provision and practice. She maintains required ratios set out in the National Minimum Standards. She has ensured that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are in place for all household members aged 16 and over.

The child minder understands the importance of working in partnership with parents to ensure children in her care receive the correct support to meet their individual needs. She has a clear 'working with parents' policy that places a significant importance upon regular and open communication. The child minder provides effective verbal feedback to parents when they collect their child.

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
24 (2) (b)	The child minder does not hold a relevant paediatric first aid qualification and this must be addressed	Achieved
38 (1) (e)	The Registered Person must provide evidence that fire drills have been conducted with minded children.	Achieved
20 (2) (a)	The child minder must evidence that Disclosure and Barring (DBS) Service checks have been completed for all persons living at the premises over the age of 16 years.	Achieved

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
38	The child minder must carry out fire drills regularly to ensure that children know how to get out of the building safely in the event of a fire or an emergency.	New
25	The child minder must sufficiently risk assess to identify potential and emerging risks. She must use car seats in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.	New

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 24 - Safety	Follow good practice guidance for safe nappy changing.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Keep assessment records for children to identify their specific needs and plan for the next stage in their development.
Standard 10 - Healthcare	Record nappy changes.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure gas safety testing is carried out annually.
Standard 21 - Notifications of significant events	Provide Care Inspectorate Wales with latest Statement of Purpose whenever it is amended.
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Obtain the views of parents and children to inform the annual Quality of Care review.

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)
Review the behaviour management, complaints and uncollected child policies.

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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