



Inspection Report

Karin Williams

Cwmbran



Date Inspection Completed

08/09/2022

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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	27 November 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	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 direct their own play and learning and are confident communicators to voice their needs and opinions. They are settled in the care of the child minder and relaxed in her home. Children have formed close friendships and interact positively with one another. They are developing good all round skills, in line with their age and stage for development.

The child minder implements particularly good policies and procedures to promote children's health and safety. She has completed many training courses, including first aid and safeguarding, and implements what she has learned effectively in her practice. Hygiene practices and routines are thorough. She provides an interesting and stimulating environment through well-planned and resourced activities.

The child minder's home is generally well maintained, and a new kitchen and bathroom has been installed since the last inspection. Safety aspects are appropriately considered, to provide a safe and suitable space for operating a child minding service. It is resourced with an excellent variety of equipment and furniture, to meet the needs and interests of all children.

The child minder is knowledgeable about her regulatory responsibilities and keeps up to date with best practice. She annually reviews her service to identify areas for improvement, when necessary. The child minder is motivated and committed to continuous professional development and undertakes extensive training. She has very good partnerships with parents and has developed useful contacts with the local authority and other professional bodies to support her.

Children express themselves confidently because they know their ideas, wishes and choices are listened to. Good questioning throughout the day encourages them to make informed decisions about their care. They select toys they want to play with from the many items within easy reach. We heard the children chat and arrange their play together. They readily approach the child minder to ask for support and alternative toys. For example, one child wanted to have the music on to dance to.

Children feel safe and are happy and relaxed in the child minder's care. They told us they really enjoy attending and talk about what they have been doing with excitement. They move around the various play areas with confidence, moving toys and resources to where they want to play. They respond very positively to praise, developing elevated levels of self-esteem. For example, a child smiled broadly as they were praised for spontaneously counting to twenty in Welsh.

Children take the lead in their play and actively follow their interests. Children can access a very wide range of activities that are readily available. Most children spend time playing outside in the undercover play area. They enjoy relaxing on cushions, playing with games consuls, large dolls equipment and other small world items. They sit at tables enjoying craft and numerous other interesting activities. They readily engage in well planned themes and activities based on children's interests which motivates and engages them in positive learning experiences. For example, they enjoy watching and naming the birds coming out of the bird boxes they have decorated and placed on the trees around the garden.

Children thrive and make excellent progress in their learning and development. They have very good opportunities to develop their independence. Children from an early age learn skills to be able to manage tasks for themselves including, washing hands, and eating their food independently. Children know the house rules including where they can and cannot go to play and they follow these. They enjoy their play immensely, as they are interested in the fun and challenging activities provided as well as the many free play opportunities available. They enjoy sitting chatting to their friends and learning new dances. Skilful questioning such as, 'do you think...?' and 'what if... ' encourages the children to think about things for themselves. Children are successfully learning key information about numbers, the weather, and the days of the week. They readily engage in talking about these matters when they look at the calendar and show pride and excitement when they answer successfully.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder is very experienced. She undertakes extensive training to support her to be effective in her role. She has very good policies and care practice measures in place to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in her care. The child minder keeps these under review. The child minder gives safeguarding a high priority and has current certificates in various safeguarding areas, as well as child protection. The child minder is confident in her knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow with any child welfare concern. She has current paediatric first aid training. The child minder has undertaken a very wide variety of courses, including several online in the last year. These cover all aspects of care practices and business matters, including changes to the curriculum in Wales, Additional Learning Needs Bill, and Wales Safeguarding Procedures. The child minder promotes healthy lifestyles, providing children with fresh drinking water and healthy snacks. She sits with them when they eat, encouraging them to eat the healthier options in their packed lunches first. The child minder plans many activities outdoors to ensure children are physically active each day.

The child minder adopts a calm, positive approach to managing children's behaviour and is enthusiastic and kind in her interactions. She uses her experience and training to manage interactions. The child minder described how she explains to children what the expectations of behaviour are, ensuring that they are clear about the house rules. The child minder knows children's individual personalities well and monitors and motivates them to develop resilience and self-discipline. She uses reward charts for children who she feels will benefit from this method to promote positive outcomes at certain times. The child minder engages very positively with children to manage their expectations, such as being able to visit friends in the community.

The child minder promotes children's play and learning very well. There is a robust system in place to gather information about the children's needs before they start, and to monitor their development, whilst at the service. The child minder has a very thorough method of planning activities and ensures resources to support themes and activities are plentiful and interesting. The child minder regularly takes photographs during activities. These show children enjoying an exceptionally broad range of activities covering all areas of learning, including multicultural celebrations. The child minder provides many opportunities for children to work things out for themselves and solve problems through for example, matching activities. The child minder uses resources effectively to encourage children to think about what might happen next, why, and when. The child minder is not a Welsh speaker but promotes the Welsh language and culture effectively during the day. She encourages children to use basic words and phrases and many count confidently in Welsh. Many displays and labelling are bilingual and there is a Welsh 'word of the week' displayed, linked to the theme, to develop children's Welsh language skills.

Environment

Good

The child minder generally ensures the premises are safe and secure. She implements good policies, procedures, and risk assessments to maintain a safe and hygienic environment. These include cleaning schedules and hygienic procedures, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Appropriate measures are in place to mitigate risks, such as safety gates. The child minder has improved the outside area significantly in recent years and she has recently further expanded the risk assessment to ensure children are safe and secure, by being constantly supervised when using this area. The gas safety check is up to date and the child minder practices their emergency evacuation procedures regularly. She told us that she has considered how to evacuate children from all areas, and this is reinforced during practice evacuations. The child minder maintains public liability insurance.

The child minder offers a rich, child-centred environment that is friendly and inviting. Resources in the kitchen, lounge and outdoors are easily accessible for children. The toilet is located on the first floor and the child minder supports children to use the facilities as required. Play takes place in the lounge, kitchen/dining area, first floor playroom and in the large, covered outside area. The rear garden is not used. There are areas to rest and relax with appropriate eating facilities, and furniture to provide a suitable environment for the care of children. The child minder displays children's work prominently, in the play areas, giving the children a sense of pride, and belonging. There is a great deal of other relevant information displayed, such as house rules, interesting information to support the current theme, and Welsh information.

The child minder provides an environment that supports children to reach their full potential. She has a wealth of high-quality toys and resources that provide excellent play opportunities and challenge for children. The resources promote their learning, and engage their interests very well, such as role-play, reading and fine motor skill activities. Resources and play areas are very interesting and are changed regularly to enhance current themes and topics. Many resources promote the Welsh language and other cultures, that help children begin to appreciate diversity and a multicultural society.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder is committed to providing a very good quality service for both children and parents. She is enthusiastic about supporting children to thrive and reach their full potential. The Statement of purpose contains accurate and useful information for parents about the service provided. She manages her service well and reviews policies and procedures regularly. All necessary paperwork is in place and is well organised. For example, the child minder maintains accident and attendance records well. Some improvements were made to policies such as safeguarding, behaviour management and medication during this inspection.

The child minder has a good system in place to review her service. She completes an annual quality of care review on all aspects of her service. This reflects on feedback from parents, outlines her strengths and any areas to develop across all themes. She is reflective and continually looks at ways she can improve and build on her already good quality service. This includes seeking out information and training regarding updates to relevant legislation such as the Additional Learning Needs Bill, Wales Safeguarding Procedures and New Curriculum for Wales. The child minder is receptive to advice from other professionals and is quick to make any changes to further improve the service and experiences of children.

The child minder has close partnerships with parents, who speak very highly of her service and the care she provides for their children. She has comprehensive information from parents about their child's individual needs prior to care commencing. The child minder keeps parents well informed about their child's experiences and development through various methods of communication such as daily verbal information, email, and texts. Regular conversations, photographs and written observations help parents understand how well their child is progressing. The child minder has a good relationship with the local authority childcare team, who provide support, information, and training. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the child minder has developed good partnerships with the environmental health and public health departments.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

No recommendations, as improvements were discussed and addressed during this inspection.

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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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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