



## Inspection Report

**Sarah Williams**

**Bargoed**



**Date Inspection Completed**

28/02/2024

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	5
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	
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.

<a href="#"><u>Well-being</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>
<a href="#"><u>Care and Development</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>
<a href="#"><u>Environment</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>
<a href="#"><u>Leadership and Management</u></a>	<b>Adequate</b>

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

### **Summary**

Children have adequate opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They are generally happy and settled in the child minder's care and have developed affectionate relationships with her. Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills.

The child minder is calm and caring towards the children. She knows the children well, supports their development and enables them to follow their interests. The child minder has taken steps to review some of her policies, procedures and documentation to keep children healthy and safe.

The child minder provides a welcoming and friendly environment for children, where they can play and relax. Maintenance and safety checks for the home are up to date. The child minder has completed a few risk assessments. However, these are not followed consistently, and improvements are required.

The child minder offers a home from home service. She has a few basic policies, procedures and documentation in place to support the running of the setting. She has begun to review and amend some to reflect her current practice. The child minder has undertaken the necessary training in line with the national minimum standards for regulated childcare and regulations. Parents spoke highly of the child minder and the service she provides.

## Well-being

## Adequate

Nearly all children have adequate opportunities to make choices and decisions about how they spend their time at the setting. They choose from the many toys and activities available to them. Children confidently initiate playing games which are of interest to them. For example, children began to play a game of hide and seek using dolls, which the child minder joined in. There were lots of smiles and laughing during their game. Most children express themselves confidently, as they know their wants, needs and moods will be listened to. For example, a child picked up their shoes, indicating to the child minder they wanted to go outside.

Nearly all children are generally happy and settled. They are comfortable in their surroundings, familiar with daily routines and have a sense of belonging. For example, after lunch children independently settled down to sleep on the sofas. All children receive praise for their efforts and achievements, which makes them feel happy and valued. Children have formed affectionate relationships with the child minder. We saw a younger child make a physical gesture to tell the child minder they wanted to be picked up for a cuddle.

Children enjoy their play and benefit from an appropriate selection of play and learning opportunities. They are interested and fully involved in their activities. Children concentrate for an appropriate length of time in line with their age and stage of development. Children have opportunities to enjoy the outdoors by accessing their local community. They regularly play in the park along with visiting other places of interest within the local community such as the library.

Children have a few opportunities to develop their independence skills, enabling them to do things for themselves. For example, children are encouraged to put on their own coats and wellies, along with helping to tidy up after play.

## Care and Development

## Adequate

In general, the child minder has adequate practices to keep children safe. She has a few basic policies and procedures which promote children's health and safety and has recently begun to take steps to review some of these. However, the child minder does not always follow her policies and procedures. For example, the nappy changing policy and procedure, outlines, children's nappies will be changed every two hours. The child minder did not follow these procedures. There are appropriate systems to record accidents, incidents and the safe administration of medication. The child minder has undertaken safeguarding training and is confident to follow her policy should she have any concerns regarding a child in her care.

The child minder provides children with healthy snacks and light meals. She takes basic measures to ensure the safety of any child who has allergies and intolerances. The child minder follows some basic infection control practices such as washing her hands before preparing food and wiping down surfaces. However, she does not follow all requirements as outlined by the Food Standards Agency. For example, fridge temperatures are not regularly taken or recorded. The child minder does not always promote good hygiene practices with children to prevent the spread of infection. For example, she doesn't encourage children to wash their hands before eating.

The child minder has a lovely manner with the children and delivers warm, nurturing care. She is attentive, patient and offers reassurance when needed. The child minder knows the children well and is considerate when meeting their individual needs. Any specific care requirement needed for a child is outlined in a written plan. The child minder carries out basic observations and assessments to track children's progress. She seizes opportunities to promote children's learning. For example, when reading a story with the children a child pointed out a spider in the book. The child minder embraced this opportunity and sang 'Incy wincy spider' with the children. The child minder implements a positive approach to behaviour, where children are celebrated when they are kind and caring to their friends, which helps promote their self-esteem and self-confidence.

## Environment

Adequate

The child minder provides a secure environment, where children can play and relax. She keeps accurate records of children's attendance as well as of any visitors to the premises. The child minder ensures maintenance checks for the home and appliances are up to date. Fire drill practices ensure children know how to leave the premises safely in the event of an emergency. Records are kept but details such as specific dates and times are not always recorded.

The child minder has completed a few adequate written risk assessments which identify potential risks within the home and the steps to be taken to reduce the risk. However, she does not always implement her risk assessments. For example, the risk assessment details how pillows are to be used to prevent children from falling off, when they sleep on the sofa. The child minder did not follow these procedures. Child safety gates to prevent children independently accessing areas such as the kitchen or areas where they may be potentially exposed to dog waste are not used consistently. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder provides a welcoming, home from home environment for children. It is light, bright, and has adequate space for children to play and learn. Children have use of the family living room. Access to the family bathroom is downstairs promoting independent access for older children. The kitchen is used for mealtimes, where children eat their food sat on stools at a raised worktop. Children access the local community daily when attending various community groups such as stay and play and music and movement sessions with the child minder.

The child minder provides a wide range of toys, books and games. They are of suitable design for the age of the children and in good repair. Generally, they are well organised and accessible to children. Resources are stored around the living room and on shelving units in concealed boxes at a level where children can independently access these items or ask for support.

## **Leadership and Management**

**Adequate**

The child minder offers a home from home service to the children and parents who attend the setting. The child minder has begun to address some of the improvements identified since the last inspection and these will remain in place for the child minders attention. A suitable statement of purpose accurately reflects the service offered, enabling parents to make an informed choice. The child minder ensures Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) are informed of any revisions to the statement of purpose.

The child minder has an adequate range of policies, procedures, and documentation to support the management of the setting. Some have been recently reviewed. Contracts are in place, which are signed and exchanged with parents prior to a child starting at the setting. Parents complete permission forms giving their consent for the child minder to carry out a range of activities. Such as, attending outings, having contact with the family pet and to use higher risk play equipment such as trampolines.

The child minder reviews the quality of her care annually and produces a suitable report. The review considers and includes the views of parents. The views of children are sought but are not included in the report. A few actions are identified as areas for development. The child minder has undertaken the required mandatory training courses within the required times scales, such as, paediatric first aid. In addition, she has also attended further training in other areas. For example, keeping children safe in a digital world which has extended her knowledge to be able to better support children in her care. All household members over the age of sixteen years have up to date disclosure and barring service checks (DBS).

The child minder understands the importance of working in partnership with parents, ensuring the children in her care receive the correct support to meet their individual needs. She mostly communicates with parents verbally and via a social media app. Parents we spoke with were highly complementary about the setting. The child minder also has good links with other child minders in the area, sharing ideas and attending community events together.



### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	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.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	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
25	The child minder must ensure all reasonable measures have been taken to mitigate potential risks within the environment to safeguard children at the setting.	Achieved
20	The child minder must ensure all members of the household over the age of 16 years have acquired an enhanced criminal certificate within the required timescale. The child minder must be satisfied all household members over the age of 16 years are suitable to be in the company of children in their care.	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
25	The child minder must ensure all potential risks within the setting are identified, adequately addressed and followed robustly to ensure children's safety.	New
30	The child minder must ensure all records are accurate and information is appropriately recorded. Medication and accident records must include the relevant detail and permissions. The child minder must ensure there is always a record of each child they provide care for at any given time.	Achieved
16	The child minder must complete a review and write a report on an annual basis regarding the quality of care provided within their setting.	Achieved
15	The child minder must compile a statement of purpose which contains all the required details as outlined in the child minding and day care (Wales) regulations 2010. The statement of purpose must be kept under review and shared with CIW when amendments are made.	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	To ensure infection prevention control procedures are followed in line with guidance.
Standard 24 - Safety	To ensure fire drill log records are accurately recorded.

Standard 12 - Food and drink	Ensure all Food Standards Agency requirements are complied with.
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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)

To ensure policies and procedures include all the required information and are put into practice.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
<b>Excellent</b>	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.
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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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