



## Inspection Report

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**Caernarfon**



**Date Inspection Completed**

16/09/2021

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	24 January 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	<i>This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service.</i>

## **Summary**

This was an inspection undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic; therefore, we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Children are happy and have a warm relationship with the child minder. They enjoy their time at the service and are confident to communicate their needs. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities in keeping children safe and healthy. She is kind and supports children in a warm and positive manner. The child minder ensures the premises, toys and resources are suitable for the children. The child minder manages her service appropriately and understands her regulatory responsibilities. She ensures suitability checks are kept up to date and that parents are kept well informed about their children's development and of any changes to the setting.

## Well-being

Children have a choice in how they spend their time and are supported to follow their own interests. They move freely between the activities available to them and are confident to ask for the things they want. For example, they are confident to ask for more drink when they want it and ask the child minder for help to reach the toys they want while playing outside.

Children are settled and have formed warm relationships with the child minder and the child minding assistant. They are eager to chat to them and involve them in their play and know that their communication is valued. For example, by pointing out the birds they notice in the garden and chatting with the child minder about them. Children are confident to approach the child minder for comfort, and are provided with positive words of encouragement and hugs when needed. For example, they show the child minder if they have hurt themselves and are responded to warmly.

Children enjoy their play and are beginning to form friendships. They are eager to play together and enjoy each other's company. For example, two children rode around on the ride on toys. They followed each other and shared lots of laughter and happy chatter. Whilst playing together, children are learning to take turns and share, for example, by happily allowing their friends to have a turn on the swing.

Children are given plenty of time and encouragement to learn to complete tasks for themselves, such as feeding themselves at lunch time, washing hands and putting on their own shoes and coats. This helps them to gain confidence and aids their independence.

## Care and Development

The child minder understands her responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She has an appropriate safeguarding policy in place and is aware of the correct steps to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. She ensures children are familiar with how to evacuate the premises in case of emergency by practicing regular fire drills, which are recorded appropriately. Records are kept of children's attendance, but these do not include times of arrival or departure.

The child minder has completed paediatric first aid training and accurately records all accidents. She promotes healthy habits and good hydration by providing children with access to fresh drinking water throughout the day, providing healthy meals and asking parents to provide healthy snacks. The child minder ensures children wash their hands when needed, such as upon arrival at the setting, after using the toilet and before eating. The child minder ensures children have plenty of opportunities to spend time outdoors in the fresh air and to develop their physical skills.

The child minder has built positive relationships with the children. She is kind and deals with any unwanted behaviour calmly and fairly. She uses positive methods to remind children how to manage their own behaviour and uses praise to help them recognise when they interact well. For example, the child minder gently but clearly reminded children of how to climb up the slide and gave lots of praise when they did so appropriately.

The child minder plans a range of activities that are interesting and help children to learn and develop their skills, including a good mixture of indoor and outdoor activities. For example, children took part in a '30 days wild' challenge throughout the summer where they planted flowers and learnt about the natural environment around them by exploring trees, plants flowers and wildlife. The child minder showed evidence of how parents are kept up to date with their child's progress and important information about their time at the setting. She sends regular messages and photographs through individual secure online messages and also has a group message set up so all important information can be shared promptly.

## Environment

The child minder provides an appropriate environment for children. The child minder has formed a risk assessment and policy in place outlining the child minder's additional procedures to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19, including not allowing parents to enter the premises and regular cleaning. Risk assessments are in place but are not regularly reviewed to make sure any new potential hazards have been identified; we found some hazards present that were not mentioned in the risk assessment. We discussed this with the child minder who addressed the matter promptly.

The child minder ensures she provides children with a sufficient choice of toys and resources, including dolls, toy vehicles, building blocks and arts and craft materials. Toys and resources are easily accessible to children throughout their play. The outdoor play area offers plenty of space for children to play and explore. There is a good range of equipment for children to play and develop their learning and physical skills, including a play house, climbing frame, swings, slide and a range of ride on toys.

The child minder has a range of equipment to aid younger children's independence skills. For example, she has toddler toilet seats a potty and steps in the downstairs wash room so children can use the toilet and wash their hands independently. She also told us she cleans toys at the end of each day. Although this is not currently recorded, the child minder has since sent in a cleaning log she has created in order to start doing so. The child minder ensures children have use of the kitchen table to eat their meals or complete craft activities. When playing in the lounge, children normally sit on the floor and can bring in their own cushions they could use if they wish, though most choose to sit on the floor.

## Leadership and Management

The child minder understands her role and regulatory responsibilities and provides a range of policies to enable her to run her setting appropriately. These policies are clear, informative and updated regularly. Parents are also provided with a copy of all the setting's policies each time they are updated. The statement of purpose gives a clear and accurate description of the setting offered, providing parents with plenty of information to make an informed choice. The document also reflects the new procedures put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic, keeping parents up to date with changes.

The child minder regularly seeks feedback from parents and children and outlines planned improvements within an annual quality of care review report. This included the improvements made to date and those planned for the future and provided a clear account of how the child minder responded to any suggestions for improvement.

The child minder ensures that both hers and her assistant's Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check are valid and up to date. Records provided showed that the child minder gathers all required information about children prior to them attending, allowing her to plan effectively to meet children's individual needs.

Parents we spoke with told us they were very happy with the service. They told us information was shared regularly about their child's development and about any changes to the setting. They also said the child minder was very approachable and helpful with any queries they had.



## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1- Ensuring risk assessments are reviewed regularly and updated to include any new potential hazards to children's safety.

R2- Keeping records of when toys, resources and areas used by children are cleaned.

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved**

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved**

Some children's files did not contain any GP or medical practitioner contact details.	Regulation 30 (1) (a)
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Where providers fail to improve we will escalate the matter by issuing a priority action notice. Where providers fail to take priority action we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

**Areas where priority action is required**

None

**Areas where improvement is required**

The child minder is not compliant with regulation 30- maintaining accurate records of attendance. This is because she did not keep an accurate record of the times of arrival and departure of children on the daily registers. Not having an accurate account of the children present at any given time could pose a risk in cases of emergency where, for example, the child minder may not be sure everybody has evacuated safely as they were unsure who had left the setting already.	Regulation 30 (1) (a)
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

**Date Published 06/12/2021**