



Inspection Report

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Aberystwyth



Date Inspection Completed

07/11/2023

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	6 June 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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.

<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Adequate
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children communicate their wishes and have opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Their interests and decisions are considered, and they interact well. Children settle in well and have opportunities to develop their independence skills.

The child minder has adequate understanding of policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety, and well-being. She understands her responsibilities to safeguard children and knows the children well.

The child minder offers a homely and clean environment. All safety certificates are valid, however not all checks are completed regularly. Children have sufficient space to play indoors and outside safely.

The child minder complies with regulations and many relevant requirements within the National Minimum Standards. She keeps records and certificates in order. The child minder communicates effectively with parents and uses the community, local parks and walks to offer further learning experiences for children.

Children communicate their wishes, and their needs are considered. They have opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Children's interests and decisions are taken into account. For example, children excitedly replied with "yes!" when asked if they would like to go for a walk. During the walk, children asked if they could have the playdough when they returned to the house, which they enjoyed playing with for a good time.

Children settle in well because practices are implemented to support individual needs. Children are content and have a close relationship with the child minder. They are becoming familiar with their surroundings and routines. Their feelings are acknowledged and there are developing bonds of attachment and affection evident. Interactions between children and the child minder are positive and children are engaged in activities that have been arranged for them. We saw photographs of craft activities the children had made for Halloween and fireworks. They enjoy taking part in activities such as playdough, colouring and looking at books.

Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do some things for themselves. Older children eat at a dining table whilst younger ones sit in the highchair. Children use the toilet independently and wash and dry their hands afterwards. Children make a good effort to put on their own coats, wetsuits, and wellies before going outside to play. Children enjoy chatting about what they see on their walk and recall the fireworks display they watched the same week. They excitedly spot a horse in the field and recognise it is wearing the same colour coat as one of the children.

Care and Development

Adequate

The child minder is continuing to develop her understanding and is working towards implementing policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety, and well-being. However, stringent first aid procedures are not fully implemented such as recording accidents after administering first aid. The child minder is aware of her safeguarding responsibilities and has completed her training. The child minder does not prepare any food. During feeding times, the child minder provides comfort and reassurance, enabling children to feel relaxed and safe.

Interactions between the child minder and children are consistent, demonstrating warmth and kindness. The child minder is sensitive to the needs and experiences of children and responds well to their needs.

The child minder understands children's development and demonstrates that she knows the children in her care. Children's files and records include evidence of children's work such as drawings and pictures. The child minder told us that daily feedback to parents is verbal or via a mobile app where she sends daily pictures of the children in their play.

The child minder offers a good range of resources, which are stored in the living room and kitchen area. Children are able to access some things independently. However, the child minder readily brings out age-appropriate resources to meet the needs of children in her care.

Environment**Good**

The child minder has good measures and policies in place to ensure that she fulfils most of her responsibilities in relation to the safety of children in her care. She ensures that the indoor and outdoor environment is generally safe and secure. She organises basic cleaning routines that reflect satisfactory hygiene practices and infection control. The child minder carries out visual checks of all indoor and outdoor areas. Building safety, fire checks and certificates are valid and evidences the child minder's awareness of safety requirements. However, fire drills are not carried out regularly. All visitors sign the visitors log ensuring the safety of everyone whilst on the premises.

The main play space is homely, clean, and welcoming. Play resources are displayed and appropriately presented. The outdoor area is secure, and children have free flow access into the garden from the kitchen. Children's play resources are limited in the outdoors. However, the childminder has plans to use grant funding to have a playhouse and a tuff tray in the garden. As well as this, she is planning to purchase an iPad for the children to use. Children have access to a selection of resources such as play tent, jigsaws, tabletop games, dolls and prams, kitchen play area and craft equipment.

Indoor spaces such as the stairs, hallway and kitchen are closed off from the main play space with appropriate safety gates. Children's documents and information are locked away safely?.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder ensures that she complies with regulations and many relevant requirements within the National Minimum Standards. She has good knowledge of her regulatory responsibilities and keeps a file of relevant policies. These are reviewed as and when needed and parents receive copies via email. The statement of purpose has been updated providing an accurate reflection of the service. The childminder has an up-to-date insurance certificate, and all vehicle documents are valid and correct. The child minder also has several suitable car seats and children's booster seats to ensure the safe transport of all children during school pick up trips. The child minder ensures children's arrival and departure times are recorded. These records show that the child minder always ensures that ratios are correct.

The child minder obtains informal feedback from parents and children and reviews her service. She has successfully submitted the service's annual report to Care Inspectorate Wales.

The child minder ensures that she is up to date with her training, and we saw that her paediatric first aid training, child protection and food hygiene is up to date. The child minder communicates clearly with parents and works in partnership to meet their needs. She uses the local community, playgroup, and park areas to extend children's learning experiences.

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
16 (1)	The child minder had not made suitable arrangements to establish and maintain a system for monitoring, reviewing and improving the quality of care provided.	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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

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	Ensure that fire drills are carried out at least every 6 months.

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)
Ensure all accidents to children are recorded and signed by the child minder and parent / carere.

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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