



Inspection Report

Eileen Moore

Pontypridd



Date Inspection Completed

08/02/2022

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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	Manual Insert 31 January 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No. 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.

Summary

Children are happy and settled at the service. They very much enjoy the time they spend at the child minder's home and are familiar and comfortable with routines. Children have a voice at the setting, activities are child led and they are able to influence and direct their play.

The child minder provides nurturing and responsive care. She is a positive role model treating children with respect, valuing their contributions and communications. She has warm relationships with children in her care and interactions with them are consistently good.

The home is bright, airy and spacious. Children benefit from a well-appointed, dedicated playroom suitable for their needs and a good supply of age appropriate play resources. In general, the home is safe and secure, although greater focus is required to ensure timely completion of utility safety checks.

The child minder manages her child minding business to an appropriate standard. She has established record keeping systems, although some records and policies require development. Partnerships with families are strong and parents very much appreciate the care the child minder provides.

Well-being

Children are happy and very settled at the service. They know the routines and cope well with the transition from school to the child minders home. They have warm and established relationships with her, as they have been attending for many years. This means that they know the child minder well, and are comfortable in her company. For example, interactions and conversations between children and the child minder were consistently positive.

Children are confident communicators and have a good voice at the service. They make decisions and choices freely in relation to their play, food and drink options. For example, at snack time, they made their requests known to the child minder and made independent decisions around their play activities. As school age children, they are considerate of other children and beginning to understand the importance of turn taking and sharing. They engage in conversations freely with each other and the child minder, and snack time is a social event for all.

Children enjoy the play experiences they have, although time they spend at the child minder's home is brief. Consequently, whilst there is limited time for extended play, children use the time they do have productively, quickly settling down to their chosen activities. They are very familiar with the play resources available, with some children preferring electronic games, and others board games and jigsaws. A child told us they like playing games most of all and enjoy the child minder joining in, saying that was one of the best things about attending.

Children enjoy doing things for themselves and have good opportunities to develop their independence skills, in line with their age and stage of development. On arrival from school, they take off their shoes and coats. They are aware of what resources are available and select toys and equipment without assistance from the child minder.

Care and Development

The child minder has policies and procedures to support and promote children's safety and wellbeing. She has up to date safeguarding training and understands her responsibility to report concerns to relevant authorities. To support her practice she has a written safeguarding procedure, which provides details on actions to take, but would benefit from further development. Whilst the child minder understands the importance of recording information on pre-existing injuries, currently there are no specific forms for recording details of this kind. She completes relevant first aid training and has a current paediatric first aid certificate. She therefore has the knowledge to deal with minor injuries and incidents. There is a formal system for recording medication administered and a written medication policy, but the policy would benefit from additional information in line with National Minimum Standards. Fire drills are conducted at suitable intervals so that children are familiar with evacuation of the home. There are effective infection control measures in light of the current pandemic, with the child minder adjusting her practice and procedures to ensure children's safety. For example, increased hand washing and cleaning routines.

The child minder manages and supports children's interactions in a positive way. There is a behaviour management policy setting out age appropriate strategies for supporting children's social behaviour. The policy however, does not include a statement on notifying Care Inspectorate Wales within 28 days of any changes. The child minder acts as a positive role model for children, speaking kindly and respectfully to children at all times. Throughout our inspection, she interacted with children in a supportive manner and showed interest in what they had to say.

The child minder supports children's play and learning positively, providing a warm and nurturing environment where children feel safe and confident. Because children currently attend after school only, the time available for play is limited. Nonetheless, the child minder ensures children follow their play interests and she understands the individual needs of children in her care. She enjoys engaging and supporting children's play and learning, confirmed by parents after our inspection visit and by children during our visit. During the inspection, there was appropriate supervision of children and the child minder engaged with children during activities, making gentle suggestions to support their play.

Environment

The child minder's home is suitable and appropriate for the care of children. Internal spaces are bright, spacious and airy, providing a welcoming 'home from home' space for children to play in comfort. Rooms are clean and maintained to a good standard. A dedicated playroom provides very useful space and is suitable for children's needs. It is child friendly, with colourful displays of children's artwork, giving children a sense of belonging. There is a good standard of décor throughout the home and bathroom facilities are located on the ground floor. This means that children can access these facilities with ease, promoting their independence. The kitchen is well appointed and is spacious enough for children to sit comfortably to eat their food. There is also a good-sized back garden providing children with space for physical play activities.

Overall, the home is safe and secure for children who attend the service, but some improvements are required in this area. The child minder identifies hazards to minimise risks to children and has a range of written risk assessments to support her service, although extension of these to include more details in relation to Covid-19, activities and fire safety for child minding premises would further enhance practice. A more focused approach is required in relation to utility checks as we found that the gas safety check was out of date. The child minder acted quickly to address this matter, providing a current gas safety certificate before the end of the inspection process.

The child minder ensures children have access to a good range of play resources and equipment to promote their play and learning. There is a plentiful supply of age appropriate board games, small toys and electronic equipment for children to choose from. In the kitchen, there is appropriately sized furniture, including a dining table and chairs for snack time and table-top activities. In addition, there is comfortable sitting in the playroom, enabling children to play and relax on arrival from school.

Leadership and Management

The child minder runs her service to an appropriate standard. She is an experienced childcare practitioner and in addition to her child minding business, works at another registered childcare service. She is committed to the families she offers a service to and enjoys her child minding role. The statement of purpose for the service provides enough information to enable parents to make an informed decision about its suitability for their child. The child minder has a sufficient range of policies and procedures to support her service, although the complaints policy/procedure requires some development, including additional detail on timescales. The child minder obtains key information on children, such as health information, emergency contact information and parent permission as part of her admission process, but currently there is no regular review of contracts.

The child minder monitors and reviews her service appropriately to ensure she is meeting the needs of parents and children. She regularly holds informal discussions and conversations with children and parents. This ensures that they are happy with current arrangements, producing an annual review of quality of care report at the end of this process.

The child minder manages her setting effectively. She has a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. She maintains her core training in relation to food safety, child protection and first aid and undertakes additional training to ensure that her childcare knowledge is current and relevant.

Partnership with parents is strong. There are a small number of families who use the service, most of whom are long standing. Relationships between the child minder and parents are therefore very well established. We spoke with the majority of families who use the service and all expressed a high level of satisfaction. They were very complimentary about the child minder, the care she provides and the flexibility she offers.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Ensure timely completion of utility safety checks.

R2. Formalise a system for recording information in relation to pre-existing injuries and review records such as contracts regularly.

R3. Develop policies including expanding information contained in the medication, safeguarding, complaints and behaviour management policies.

R4. Expand risk assessments to cover additional activities, Covid-19 and fire safety for child minding premises.

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
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this	N/A

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