



Inspection Report

Eirlys Jones

Amlwch



Date Inspection Completed

30/07/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	09 August 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	The service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service.

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

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

Summary

Children are confident communicators and express themselves well. They are content, express enjoyment and are familiar with the daily routines. Children interact positively with their friends and have strong bonds of affection with the child minder. They are active and curious learners and enjoy exploring indoor and outdoor play areas to make their own play and learning choices. Children are developing their independence appropriately.

The child minder has a warm and friendly approach to care giving. She has an appropriate understanding of most of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder organises suitable play and learning experiences for children.

The environment is welcoming and clean. The child minder makes sure there are appropriate toys and resources suitable for the age range of children being cared for. She ensures plenty of opportunities for children to develop their physical skills while playing in the fresh air.

The child minder manages her setting appropriately. However, improvements are required to meet with regulations and standards to create better outcomes for children.

Children are confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are considered. Their opinions and interests are valued and acted upon. They greet their friends with smiles and hugs. Children talk excitedly about the wooden house they are painting. They show how they are painting the door and windows in different bright colours. Children enjoy sharing their stories with the child minder. For instance, a child spoke about their day out to the zoo and animatedly described seeing a camel. During lunch time children spoke with interest about going to visit the neighbouring farm to see the cows.

Children settle quickly as they are greeted by the friendly child minder. They have strong bonds of affection with her. They approach the child minder with ease for a chat, invite her into their play and to make their requests. Children are familiar with daily routines and show how they wash and dry their hands after using the toilet and before mealtimes.

Children interact positively with their friends and the child minder. They enjoy the social occasion of mealtimes; they sit at the table maturely and practice using good manners. Children are learning to share and take turns well. For example, when playing with the garage children shared vehicles and took turns to roll them down the ramp. Friends work together well as a team. They used toy tools to pretend they were fixing the outdoor slide and see saw and explained to one another what they were doing. Children are learning about kindness. For example, when their friend needed their nappy changing, children helped the child minder to get the nappy changing box ready to go to the bathroom.

Children are active and curious learners. They enjoy dressing up and developing their imagination. For example, friends dressed up as medics and in character used props to take each other's temperature. Children enjoy exploring props in the home corner. A child concentrated as they placed toy bread slices into a toy toaster and smiled as it popped up. During outdoor play children developed their physical skills well. For instance, riding pedal vehicles, running around and improving their hand and eye co-ordination with a ball and racket. Children created a lovely scene in the outdoor playhouse pretending it was an ice cream parlour. They spoke about their favourite ice cream flavours and asked the child minder which ice cream she wanted.

Children are developing their independence suitably. They persevere to put on their own shoes and sun hats for outdoor play. However, opportunities are missed at mealtimes for children to help and serve themselves to food and drink. Children are confident to explore indoor and outdoor play areas, making choices and directing their own play effectively. Children do most things for themselves with positive encouragement from the child minder.

Care and Development

Adequate

The child minder has a warm and friendly approach to care giving and has created a lovely, homely environment. She knows children well. The child minder supports children to speak and express themselves with confidence and provides them with a consistent timely response to their requests.

The child minder has an appropriate understanding of most of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder has completed mandatory training suitable for the age range of children being cared for and has an appropriate understanding of safeguarding procedures. She confirmed there have been no accidents or incidents at the setting. The child minder's food and nutrition policy has not been recently reviewed and her practice is not always fully in line with the Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance for childcare settings. For example, during snack time, children ate crisps and drank fruit squash. The child minder does not encourage healthier drink options for children of milk or fresh drinking water. The child minder prepared a healthy lunch and responded to children's requests for cheese sandwiches, tomatoes, cucumber and strawberries for dessert.

The child minder conducts fire drills regularly to help children learn what to do in the event of an emergency, but the outcome is not recorded to aid improvements for future practice. She encourages children to wash their hands helping them to develop their personal hygiene practices appropriately. Nappy changing procedures are in line with current infection control procedures. The child minder is not consistently recording the daily hours when children are attending to have a clear audit of which children are being cared for during these times. 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 warm and welcoming environment and makes sure children are provided with reassurance and comfort when needed. This creates a relaxed and happy atmosphere. She praises children consistently for their efforts and takes delight in their achievements. The child minder is sensitive and responsive to the individual needs of all children.

The child minder promotes the Welsh language effectively to develop children's use and understanding of the language. The child minder has a responsive approach to activity planning and listens to children's requests about what they would like to do. She organises appropriate play and learning experiences but does not observe and record what children do to help her plan for the next steps in the children's play, learning and development.

During outdoor play the child minder responded positively to children's requests to join them playing football, help them fill different sized buckets with sand and join in with their imaginary cooking scene. The child minder sang along to the children's favourite Welsh song as they played in the sand.

Environment**Adequate**

The child minder ensures the environment is clean and welcoming. The outdoor play environment is well maintained and spacious.

The child minder has a suitable system to manage access to the premises. She has completed generic risk assessments identifying the potential hazards to children and what measures are in place to manage these risks. However, these are not fully reflective of the premises, activities and outings and not all have been regularly reviewed and updated. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. The child minder has fire safety policies outlining procedures to take in an emergency, but these have not been dated to ascertain the last review. She has not completed the Welsh Government fire safety risk assessment for childminding premises. The child minder said she has arranged an oil heating check to be conducted. She has a suitable first aid kit. The child minder conducts good cleaning routines.

The child minder ensures the environment has sufficient indoor play space for children to move freely and develop their play suitably. She makes sure the environment meets many of the children's needs. There is a variety of age-appropriate toys and resources available, but not all of these are easily accessible to children. For example, some of the individual toy boxes are overloaded, making it difficult for children to make choices and experience playing with different toys. There are some dolls that reflect different cultures to raise children's awareness of our wider society. There is a lack of natural and re-cycled materials to develop children's curiosity. The child minder provides resources to develop children's language, numeracy, and self-awareness skills appropriately.

The child minder ensures the outdoor play space is well maintained and used as often as possible. She extends children's development in the outdoors by offering a suitable range of resources to improve their physical and co-ordination skills. The child minder has created areas for children to plant and grow flowers to help develop their nurturing skills.

Leadership and Management

Adequate

The child minder manages her setting appropriately. However, further improvements are required to meet with regulations and standards to create better outcomes for children.

The child minder has written a statement of purpose that contains most of the required information to reflect what the setting offers. She has produced a safeguarding policy, but this is not based on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures in line with current Welsh legislation. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action. Not all policies and procedures have been regularly updated and some do not reference current Welsh legislation and guidance, such as the food and nutrition policy. The assessment of service statement has been submitted to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The child minder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to promote the Welsh language and culture.

The child minder has produced a report reviewing the quality of care but she has not included the comments gathered from parents, carers and children to highlight what improvements could be made to fully evaluate the setting.

The child minder has satisfactory systems in place to update suitability checks as required. She has ensured her own and those living on the premises have an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) certificate. The child minder has gathered the required information in the children's personal records to make sure she can meet their individual needs.

The child minder engages with the community taking children on walks and visits to local sites to help them learn about their surrounding area and improve their social skills. The child minder showed photographs of children in activity, participating in a garden sports day, going for walks in the countryside and planting seeds. Parents / carers said they are very happy with the setting and said the child minder is '*amazing*', '*courteous*' and '*takes interest in the children*'. Parents / carers said the child minder organises a variety of activities and their children have plenty of opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air.

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.

Area(s) for Improvement		
Regulation	Summary	Status
30	The child minder must ensure there is a daily record of the names of the children and their hours of attendance to make sure there is a clear audit of which children are being cared for during these times.	New
25	The child minder must ensure risk assessments are fully reflective of the premises, activities and outings children participate in. The child minder must make sure risk assessments are completed annually and are reviewed when there are any changes to the premises or to the needs of the relevant children.	New
22	The child minder must ensure the safeguarding policy is based on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. In producing this policy the child minder must also be familiar with the Welsh Government's statutory guidance on safeguarding children under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.	New

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 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Consider creating more opportunities for children to develop their independence skills especially during meal times.
Standard 12 - Food and drink	Ensure food and drinks offered are healthy and nutritional in line with the Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance for child care settings.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning	Make sure what children do is observed and recorded to help plan the next steps for the children's play, learning and development.
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Consider and include the comments from parents / carers, children and professionals when reviewing the quality of care provided to fully evaluate the setting and identify what improvements could be made.

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)
Review all policies and procedures regularly to make sure they are reflective of the current provision and contain relevant information in accordance to current Welsh legislation and guidance.

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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