



Inspection Report

Georgina Damrell

St. Asaph



Date Inspection Completed

23/05/2024

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2024.

*You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.*

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 May 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and demonstrates a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.'

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

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

Summary

Children are happy and form exceptionally warm relationships with the child minder and each other. They enjoy their time at the setting and are highly confident to let the child minder know what they want to do. Children have a good range of play and learning experiences and have plenty of opportunities to choose.

The child minder knows how to keep children safe and healthy. She supports individual children exceptionally well in a warm and highly positive way. The child minder is relaxed, kind and friendly and plans a range of activities in line with children's interests. She makes sure she captures children's imagination with exciting activities which help them to learn and develop their skills highly effectively.

The child minder provides a safe and comfortable environment for children with exceptional learning opportunities through visits. She ensures risks are monitored and managed effectively. An exciting range of experiences and bespoke natural resources are highly successful in developing children's social, physical and creative skills.

The child minder manages her provision exceptionally well and understands her regulatory responsibilities. Documents and procedures are clear, well organised and easy to find, with suitability checks kept up to date. The child minder knows her setting well and is proactive in making changes which benefit the children and improve outcomes. Parents enjoy a highly successful partnership with the child minder and are well informed about their children's development.

Children are very happy and settled. They move around the natural resources and activities freely indoors and out and can choose for themselves what to do as nearly everything is stored within their reach. Children are busy and enjoy exploring. They follow their own interests and to express what they want to do. For example, children emptied a box of bricks and then decided to sit in it. They made up a game where the youngest child was pushed gently amid much laughter and giggling.

Children settle extremely well and have close attachments with the child minder. They develop warm relationships with other children who attend. They develop a strong sense of belonging and are confident to chat. For example, they tell us about what they saw at the farm park, the highlight of which was a pig race. Children are happy to cuddle close to the child minder when waking from a nap. The children react well to positive words of encouragement and praise which quickly sort any small disagreements, such as who goes into the box first.

Children are starting to share resources and play alongside each other well for example they share ice blocks. They take turns using their sense of touch feeling in a bag to guess what type of fruit is inside. They are highly confident as the daily routine is familiar. This ensures children feel secure as they know what is going to happen next, such as washing their hands ready to eat lunch. They are kind and gentle for example, they stroke a baby's head to reassure them.

Children are starting to count on their own and name colours successfully in English and Welsh. The children are interested in what their friends are doing and make constructive comments. They enjoy showing younger children how they can tidy up. They have lovely manners saying, 'You're welcome'. They join in with the story relishing the parts they know and concentrate well looking at a book.

Children have a good range of play and learning experiences and develop new skills well. They choose to spend time outdoors and use the garden daily. They have good opportunities to develop socially as they attend local playgroups and places of interest such as a local farm park. They increase physical skills highly effectively by using large play equipment and listening and moving to music. The children develop their Welsh language skills using simple words and phrases and attending a Welsh medium playgroup.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder understands her responsibility to keep children safe and healthy and has relevant policies and procedures in place. The child minder knows the procedure to follow should there be any safeguarding concerns about a child. She records accidents and incidents and contacts parents if required and ensures they sign the records on collection. The child minder promotes a healthy way of life and ensures children wash their hands, such as after using the toilet and before eating. Although the child minder does not provide food for the children it is suggested that any snacks given to children whilst at playgroup are recorded. The child minder promotes good hygiene and lets the children decide whether to choose to use a potty or the toilet. She has undertaken courses to keep children safe such as understanding anaphylaxis. The childminder practices regular evacuations so children know what to do in an emergency.

The child minder has built exceptionally positive relationships with the children. The care is relaxed, and child led, ensuring children's emotional well-being is nurtured by discussing feelings. The child minder interacts with warmth and kindness, giving plenty of praise for small achievements such as sticking shiny scales to make a fish. She deals with any difficulties with sharing, calmly and fairly. For example, distraction is highly effective and clear, simple explanations help children understand how sharing works. The child minder reminds children gently of simple rules such as sitting still with listening ears ready for the story.

The child minder is knowledgeable about children's development and successfully meets their needs. She records their achievement and shares this with parents. The child minder refreshes what they have done the day before to consolidate their learning saying, 'What did we do yesterday?' The child minder follows children's individual routines and preferences and asks questions to develop their thinking such as 'Why is it called a rainbow fish?' Parents receive a good level of detail about their child's day through an app with plenty of pictures and photographs. The child minder plans stimulating activities and play experiences that the children enjoy and which link to visits to places of interest. She ensures children are busy and respects all their choices, interests and requests. She makes learning fun and exciting by using magic tricks to the delight of the children and the inspector. The child minder makes the most of every learning opportunity such as looking what is in pictures and then discussing this, encouraging children to talk about their homes and families. The child minder develops a love of music with the children by attending a mini musical group designed for children.

Environment**Excellent**

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and well maintained and meets the needs of the children. The front door is kept locked and visitors to the setting are recorded. The child minder makes sure equipment is safe and the environment and toys are clean, well maintained and age appropriate. A safety checklist has been completed and comprehensive risk assessments identify and manage any hazards and what action is needed. There are risk assessments for places visited, however, these do not always identify specific hazards. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and supervises children well during their activities.

The child minder ensures the environment is suitable with a lovely, dedicated playroom for the children full of natural resources. Children feel comfortable and at home with low pegs for hanging their belongings. She provides plenty of toys, games and equipment and organises these well so children can access them easily. The child minder ensures the space is welcoming to children and the layout of the room promotes children's independence well. It is attractively organised to enable children to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. Play areas are light and bright with natural wooden furniture. A lovely secure, garden is well resourced with dedicated areas that provide a variety of different play and learning opportunities for children to enjoy.

A well-resourced playroom with specially made wooden equipment including a toolbox complete with tools, and 3 emergency vehicles encourage children to develop imaginative play. A full bookcase and a book written by a member of the family especially for children promotes and encourages a love of books and stories. The outdoor area with a cover provides good opportunities for children to develop a range of skills in different weather conditions. A playhouse and kitchen ensure children can follow their ideas and follow their ideas. There are a variety of materials including plastic and metal life-sized objects such as pots and pans which give the children the opportunity to work with different textures and surfaces. The child minder makes sure a few pieces of children's work are displayed and this creates a sense of belonging. The child minder takes the children out into the local area to playgroups, soft play and parks and other places of interest which develop skills highly effectively and broaden children's knowledge of the world around them.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder runs her service in a professional way which is highly effective. The statement of purpose provides parents with the required information about what the setting offers so they can make a choice. Effective policies and procedures are available for parents and the child minder keeps an accurate record of children's attendance. All records are exceptionally clear and well organised, with information and documents all up to date and easy to find. The child minder is a member of a childminding support organisation and a professional group for childcare. She finds this useful to keep up to date with information about her business and utilises some of the documentation the organisation provides.

The child minder is proactive and totally committed to improving her service. She knows her setting exceptionally well and is aware of her strengths and areas to improve. The child minder has introduced a cover outdoors, and renovations to the garden along with new resources. She reflects on her practice and completes an annual review. Parent's views are considered, and feedback is actively sought through questionnaires. Parents are exceptionally pleased with the service they receive. Their comments include, 'My child has settled really well'; 'They get to go on loads of outings'; 'Part of my extended family and adores coming' and 'Constantly developing the setting.'

The child minder ensures she keeps up to date with all mandatory training and current guidance to improve her knowledge and carry out her role effectively. She has attended lots of training courses such as Autism and How learning happens, Supporting children's interests and Action planning. She is highly committed to improving her practice. All relevant family members have a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

The child minder has built highly effective partnerships with parents. She keeps them well informed about their child's day through an app and group chat which shows photographs of the children enjoying their time with her. The child minder is exceptionally sensitive to the needs of the children and their parents and forms are completed before the child starts so the child minder can provide a good level of care. Regular updates from parents ensure that the changing needs of the children continue to be met highly effectively.

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 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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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.

Was this report helpful?

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- [Inspection report survey](#)

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our [Feedback surveys page](#).

Date Published 11/07/2024