



Inspection Report

Sharon McCoole

Denbigh



Date Inspection Completed

24/04/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	5/3/2018
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>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children are happy and form warm relationships with the child minder, her assistant and each other. They play freely and enjoy their time at the setting and are 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. They have a sense of belonging and are developing their independence well.

The child minder and her assistant successfully promote the children's well-being. They know how to keep children safe and healthy. There is a caring atmosphere, and the child minder and her assistant meet children's individual needs successfully. A range of activities are available, for children to access independently or with support from the child minder, which help them to learn and develop their skills.

The child minder provides a safe and comfortable environment for children with good learning opportunities. She ensures hazards and risks are monitored and managed effectively. A good range of natural resources and experiences are effective in developing children's skills as well as providing good learning opportunities.

The child minder manages her provision well and understands her regulatory responsibilities. Documents are clear, well organised and easy to find, and suitability checks are kept up to date. Parents are well informed about their children's development. There are visits to local areas of interest which enable children to learn more about the world around them.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at this setting. They move around the resources and activities freely and can choose for themselves as most items are stored within their reach. They are happy to follow their own interests and to express what they want to do. They chatter and smile happily to the childminder and her assistant. For example, two children enjoyed playing in the kitchen while three others were looking at a camera to see how it worked amid much giggling. Children have plenty of choice, for example they can choose toast or crumpet to eat or both.

Children feel safe, happy, and valued. They are very settled, even children who have been at the setting for a short time have a sense of belonging. They feel cared for and are happy to approach the child minder and her assistant for comfort and a snuggle for reassurance. The children react well to positive words of encouragement and praise which quickly sort any small disagreements over sharing. Children know the routine well. For example, children put their arms up ready to be lifted into their highchair for snack. This ensures children feel secure as they know what is going to happen next. There are obvious bonds of affection and attachment.

Younger children are starting to share resources and play alongside each other well. They help to tidy away toys and carry boxes together before snack, chatting together about the toys inside. They interact with each other and the child minder and her assistant well. Children are enthusiastic and interested in their play and learning, they confidently choose activities and songs that interest them such as Miss Polly and sustain their play well. They are included in decision-making, for example which colour plate to choose and have opportunities to take part in planned and free play activities. They happily chat to the child minder about what they are doing and are eager to involve adults in their play such as making drinks in their kitchen or reading a story about a caterpillar. They are thoughtful when a friend is upset and provide comfort by rubbing their back.

Children are developing their independence very well; children confidently access toys and resources from low-level storage in the playroom. They feed themselves at snack time and older children use the bathroom independently where they are becoming competent at washing their own hands. Children have a good range of play and learning experiences and develop new skills well. They use the garden daily where they have good opportunities to develop physically on large pieces of equipment. The children develop their language skills using simple words and phrases effectively. For example, counting fruit in Welsh.

The child minder and her assistant understand their responsibility to keep children safe and healthy and have relevant policies. 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 by providing children with nutritious meals and snacks with plenty of fruit considering updated guidelines. She ensures children wash their hands, such as after using the toilet and before eating. The child minder and her assistant promote good hygiene with regular cleaning routines. The child minder is waiting to renew her first aid training however in the meantime has completed a refresher course online.

The child minder has built positive relationships with the children. The care is relaxed, and child led, ensuring children's emotional well-being is nurtured. The child minder and her assistant interact with warmth and kindness, giving plenty of praise for small achievements such as sitting and listening. They deal with any difficulties with sharing, calmly and fairly. For example, reminding of kind hands is effective and clear, simple explanations help children understand how sharing works. The child minder shows younger children how to include a friend in their play but if this does not work, introducing additional resources, is usually successful.

The child minder and her assistant know the children very well and have a good understanding of each child's individual needs and routine so as a result successfully meet their needs. Parents receive a good level of detail about the child's day through daily information and observations which records their development with plenty of photographs. The child minder and her assistant plan interesting activities and play experiences that the children enjoy and which link to seasons, special occasions and places of interest. They use lots of Welsh and ensure children are busy. The child minder and her assistant respect all the children's choices, interests and requests.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and well maintained indoors and outdoors and meet the needs of the children. The front door is kept locked and has a camera, so it is clear who is on the other side of the door. 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 risk assessments identify and manage any hazards and what action is needed. There are risk assessments for places visited. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and supervises children well during their activities. Fire drills take place regularly, so children know how to evacuate in an emergency.

The outdoor area provides a lovely space for children in which to play. There are two levels, one with a soft floor outdoor carpet. On the higher-level children can paint, use sand and water and sit and ride toys safely. A bench provides storage for waterproofs and wellingtons so children can help themselves. The lower level comprises of a large, grassed area complete with a football net and balls. A large adventure set has swings, ropes and slides for children to develop physical skills. Children can easily access a downstairs bathroom which is clean, well maintained and child friendly.

The child minder and her assistant ensure the environment is welcoming and children feel comfortable and at home. They know the setting well and provide plenty of toys, games and equipment and organise these well so children can access them easily. The layout of the playroom promotes children's independence and 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 and all the furniture is appropriate including a large comfy settee for listening to stories. A playhouse and kitchen ensure children can follow their ideas and create imaginative play. There are a variety of materials including plastic and natural objects 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.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder keeps all the required policies, and procedures well maintained and has up to date documents and certificates such as public liability insurance. A statement of purpose is in place which provides those who use the setting with an accurate reflection of the service. The child minder and her assistant are suitably qualified, and they have a clear vision for the service. The child minder is a member of a childminding support organisation. 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 reviews and reflects upon her service and she is committed to improving the service she provides. She reflects on her practice and completes an annual review. The child minder is aware of her strengths and areas to improve. Parent's views are considered, and feedback is actively sought through questionnaires. Parents are very pleased with the service they receive. 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. All relevant family members have a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. We received confirmation that all recommendations have been completed evidencing the child minder and her assistant are committed to providing the best level of care.

The child minder has built effective partnerships with parents. She keeps them well informed about their child's day through an app which shows photographs of the children enjoying their time at the setting. The child minder is 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. The childminder and her assistant make good use of their local community and environment engaging in interesting and stimulating trips which benefit the children's development and learning.

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

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Date Published 10/06/2024