



## Inspection Report

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**Cardiff**

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This report is also available in Welsh**



**Date Inspection Completed**

30/04/2024

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	25 May 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>	<b>Excellent</b>
<u>Care and Development</u>	<b>Good</b>
<u>Environment</u>	<b>Good</b>
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	<b>Good</b>

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

### **Summary**

Children thrive at this setting as they have a strong voice and excellent opportunities to make choices. They have exceptional bonds with other children and the child minder. The children are relaxed in her company and enjoy the time they spend in her care. They are developing their independence well and enjoy learning through play.

The child minder understands her role to keep children safe and healthy, as well as manage positive interactions. She knows the children very well and consistently meets their individual needs and preferences. She is a knowledgeable and effective practitioner.

The child minder's home is child friendly and well maintained. She provides a range of resources and facilities to enable children to take part in a variety of different activities. The child minder ensures the indoor and outdoor environments take children's interests into consideration.

The child minder manages the setting effectively, in line with the National Minimum Standards and regulations. She is motivated and committed to continuous professional development. The child minder has built very positive partnerships with parents.

**Well-being****Excellent**

Children have a strong voice at the service. Their opinions and wishes are highly respected by the child minder and we saw that children are very happy to approach her and engage her in their play. Children are given lots of opportunities to make choices and are supported when needed. For example, we saw children happily choose to either draw, play with action figures, cars or wooden utensils. The children are asked regularly what they would like to play with during the session, which keeps them well engaged.

Children are settled and have a strong sense of belonging. They play happily in the playroom or in the garden choosing their own toys from the selection available. Children know the routines well which makes them feel comfortable and secure. They are confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are fully considered by the child minder. Children's opinions and interests are valued and acted upon. For example, we saw the children choosing to play outside when the child minder asked them if they would like to.

Interactions between children are excellent and they play happily together. They have formed positive attachments with the child minder and each other. For example, we saw younger children eagerly joining in with the games that the older children had organised for them. We also saw a younger child respond positively to older children singing to them when they were feeling sad.

Children concentrate well, sustaining interest in the things they have chosen to do for extended periods. For example, we saw one child persevere in climbing up and going down the slide in the garden. They smiled and were proud of their achievement when they mastered the task. Children respond very well to the support and encouragement from the child minder.

Children are familiar with routines and show a high level of independence. For example, children put on their own shoes before going outside and change into their school uniform independently. They move freely within the indoor area, accessing resources independently and following their own interests. They chatted happily with us, expressing their views about the toys with which they like playing. They told us that they thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting.

## Care and Development

Good

The child minder follows suitable procedures to keep children safe. She has a comprehensive safeguarding policy in place and her understanding of safeguarding is good. The child minder completes accident forms appropriately and these are signed and dated by parents to acknowledge the sharing of information. She has up to date first aid and food hygiene qualifications. The child minder prepares food hygienically and encourages good hygiene practice with children. For example, she makes sure children wash their hands at appropriate times such as, before their lunch and after using the toilet. The child minder has received an award for healthy snacks and is registered with the Food Standards Agency. She provides balanced meals and snacks for the children. The child minder's arrangements for supervising and caring for children is good.

The child minder is caring, motivated and committed to meeting children's individual needs. She is sensitive to the needs of children, providing care and affection. The child minder gives hugs when needed to provide comfort and reassurance. She understands children's needs and has a suitable behaviour policy to support this. We heard the child minder encourage and praise children frequently for their efforts and positive interactions. She supports children to make choices over where and what they want to play with, this helps promote their self-esteem and self-confidence. The child minder is consistent in her approach and positively reinforces her decisions. She is calm, patient and an excellent role model.

The child minder ensures children experience a variety of stimulating activities and visits including playgroup sessions and visits to the local library. She has formed excellent bonds with the children and is very aware of their individual development. The child minder uses developmental records to record progress. She has a very good understanding of the needs of all children attending the service. The child minder has a good awareness of the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales and has attended local authority run courses to further develop her knowledge and understanding. She is highly effective in promoting the use of the Welsh language.

## Environment

Good

The child minder ensures that the children are safe at the home and she is aware of her responsibilities with regards to their safety. The premises are secure, the front door is locked and visitors are signed in and out of the setting. Children have access to the living room and kitchen areas of the home. Older children access the upstairs toilet in a bathroom independently. The child minder accompanies younger children to use the toilet. Children make good use of a large accessible garden. Risk assessments are in place however, they are not monitored and reviewed effectively. The child minder ensures children are familiar with fire safety procedures by conducting regular evacuation practices. She has appropriate insurances and safety checks for the home and an annual gas safety check has been undertaken. The child minder ensures the environment is clean by following good hygiene procedures and carrying out regular cleaning. However, she has not completed the Public Health Wales infection control audit.

The property is suitable, welcoming and nicely decorated indoors, with a playroom designated for minded children. The child minder provides children with good opportunities for all weather outdoor play in an enclosed garden with a covered patio area. She promotes children's sense of belonging at the setting by displaying photographs of them. The child minder provides low level tables and chairs for younger children in the playroom to eat their food and gives older children the opportunity to use the dining area in the kitchen. She provides steps by the kitchen sink to encourage younger children to wash their hands independently.

All resources available to the children are suitable for their age and stage of development. The child minder ensures the resources on offer are organised and in good repair. She keeps toys and resources at a low level so they are accessible for the children. They are organised in boxes and children are familiar with where they are stored. Children can also access additional resources outdoors. The child minder told us that during the summer months, the children spend the majority of their time in the garden area. She also regularly takes the children to local parks and attractions.

## Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder is very experienced and effectively manages the setting. She has a statement of purpose, which is compliant with regulations and The National Minimum Standards (NMS). The statement of purpose explains her child-minding setting and accurately reflects the service provided. There are contracts and permissions in place to ensure the needs and preferences of children are met. The child minder has current public liability insurance and her car documents are valid.

The child minder has completed an annual quality of care report which considers the views of children and parents. However, the report does not include what the priorities are for future development. Discussions with the child minder shows she is open to feedback and embraces the need for continuous improvement.

The child minder is appropriately qualified having achieved a level 3 Children's Care, Learning and Development certificate and a level 3 Diploma in Home-based Child Care. She has undertaken additional training to further develop her skills and understanding in areas such as Additional Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Disorder. This demonstrates a commitment to improving practice and supporting her own professional development. The child minder has an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Service certificate (DBS) to confirm her suitability as a registered child minder. She ensures that all DBS checks are in place for current household members over the age of sixteen years.

The child minder ensures that partnerships with parents are highly effective. Parents told us that they were extremely happy with the care provided by the child minder. They commented that she is always approachable and friendly and genuinely invested in their children. One parent told us "We are thrilled with the service we receive". Another told us "She gives the children excellent care." The childminder keeps a daily diary for the youngest children and shares information during the day via a private messaging app. She reports back to parents on children's needs at the end of the daily child-minding session. When the children leave the service, the child minder gives them a memory book of photographs as a reminder of their time with her.



### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	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.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	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)
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated when there are any changes to the premises or the needs of the children.
Standard 18 - Quality assurance	Ensure that the Quality of Care review identifies areas for improvement.

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)
Complete an Infection Control Audit using the Public Health Wales audit tool to inform hygiene procedures.

Ratings	What the ratings mean
<b>Excellent</b>	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.
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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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