



Inspection Report

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Caerphilly



Date Inspection Completed

22/07/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	8
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	10 April 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate 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>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children are very happy and enjoy attending the setting. They feel very safe and secure in the care of the child minder. Children have excellent opportunities for play and learning and develop their independence through a range of high-quality experiences.

The child minder has excellent knowledge and understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She is patient, kind and caring. The child minder supports children's learning and development through a wide range of planned activities led by children's interests and developmental needs. She keeps effective records of children's progress.

The environment is secure, clean, welcoming and well maintained. A range of toys and equipment promote children's play well. The child minder ensures the environment is safe and secure and it promotes the health and well-being of children.

The child minder runs an excellent service. She is highly motivated, committed and implements policies and procedures that reflect the excellent level of care provided. She uses self-evaluation very effectively to identify and make improvements. Parents are kept well informed and updated on their child's experiences and development.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children have excellent choices and opportunities to make decisions about how they spend their time at the child minder's. They are very confident to communicate their thoughts and ideas, as they know the child minder will listen, show interest, and take them on board. For example, older children confidently tell the child minder what they would like to do when they get back from school. Younger children use sign language to help them communicate their needs as their language develops.

Children are very happy at the setting and feel valued. They benefit from a strong family ethos at the child minder's house. The child minder's husband often sits with her and the children to enjoy lunch together, making it a sociable event. Children enjoy being in the company of their friends of varying ages, and form friendships that help them to feel content. Children have developed strong bonds of affection with the child minder which gives them a sense of belonging. They receive lots of encouragement and praise which gives them the confidence to play, learn and explore.

Children form friendships in line with their age and stage of development. They play happily alongside each other or together. Children told us they enjoy attending the child minder's house because they "love everything about being at Lisa's" and "my favourite thing to do here is make water fountains." Children learn to respect each other and the resources, through learning to share and using equipment appropriately. They naturally show consideration for each other's needs and stages of development. For example, with support, younger children share paints and an easel in the outdoors. Older children support younger children with serving food during snack time.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play and learning. They benefit from an excellent variety of age-appropriate play and learning resources. For example, younger children delight in identifying emotions using emotion puppets and stones. Older children enjoy playing with water activities in the garden and doing crafts with the child minder. Children are motivated to follow their own interests and sustain their play for periods suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children develop a wide range of skills as they play. They have outstanding opportunities to become independent. Younger children feed themselves and wash hands independently. Under supervision, older children take turns to set out food, plates and cups for the afternoon snack. Older children prepare their food independently. For example, children use a variety of ingredients to create their own sandwiches.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder has an excellent understanding of how to promote healthy lifestyles. She provides a wide variety of nutritionally balanced snacks and identifies all allergens on her menu. Drinking water is always easily accessible. The child minder ensures children are physically active through visits to local playgroups. She told us older children love to play ball games in the garden whilst younger children love to dance to music of their choosing. The child minder consistently implements excellent cleaning and hygiene practices. She completes daily cleaning records following thorough cleaning practices demonstrating infection control is a high priority. The child minder has an extensive understanding of safeguarding and her responsibility to protect children. She knows to report any child protection concerns and has the Wales Safeguarding Procedures app on her phone, which provides her with accessible guidance to support this. The child minder completes accident, incident, and medication records to a very high standard and shares them with parents to ensure children's health needs are being clearly monitored.

The child minder adopts a calm, positive approach to managing children's behaviour and is enthusiastic and kind in her interactions. She uses her experience and training to implement her behaviour management policy highly effectively. She frequently offers praise and encouragement and is a superb role model to the children. The children eat their lunch at the table with the family and are encouraged to talk about their activities. The child minder shows interest and pleasure in all the children do and the children are eager to share their learning and work with her. For example, we saw the child minder enthusiastically join in an imaginative role play game with the younger children in the play kitchen.

The child minder promotes child led play which puts children at the heart of their learning and development. She provides exceptional fun and stimulating play opportunities which spark children's curiosity, allowing them endless opportunities to explore and experiment by following their own interests. She is very aware of children's individual needs, and flexible in her approach. Children's progress is consistently tracked, and detailed observations are used to plan their next steps in development. The child minder provides excellent opportunities for children to learn about their wider world. For example, children enjoy Jamaican food when learning about the country's culture. The child minder promotes the Welsh language. We heard her frequently use Welsh words and phrases with the children.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and secure. The front door is kept locked and visitors to the setting are signed in and out. She has undertaken effective risk assessments for all areas of her home used by the children. In addition, the child minder carries out daily safety checks to eliminate any risks to children's health and safety. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and supervises children well during their activities. Fire drills take place every month, so children know how to evacuate in an emergency. The child minder keeps purposeful records of fire drills, including some evaluative comments. All routine maintenance checks for the building and appliances are undertaken in a timely manner.

The environment is clean and well maintained. The child minder ensures the space is welcoming to children. Examples of children's work are displayed around the home reflecting their learning and celebrating their achievements. The garden play area is safe and secure and offers a good range of play opportunities for children, including climbing equipment, craft stations, planting areas and a play kitchen. 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. The child minder provides plenty of toys, games and equipment and organises these well, so children can access them easily.

Toys and equipment are clean and in good condition. There are some resources to promote diversity and a multi-cultural society, such as dolls and books. The child minder uses real life and natural resources to promote children's learning. She ensures there are good quality resources and furniture to support children's independence. For example, child sized chairs, tables and low level toy storage. Liquid soap and individual towels are easily accessible to support children's independence when washing their hands.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder leads an excellent service. She has a clear vision to continually develop her already outstanding service so that children are happy, engaged and independent, within a welcoming and caring environment. She is extremely organised, and policies, procedures and record keeping are of a very high standard. She has a very clear understanding of her responsibilities and how the National Minimum Standards and the regulations support her to keep children safe and promote their learning. There is a thorough statement of purpose in place which provides an accurate picture of how the service operates. Disclosure and Barring Service checks have been completed for all those people over the age of 16 years living in her house.

The child minder frequently monitors the quality of service she offers and plans for improvements very effectively. She regularly seeks feedback from parents and children, whose views inform an annual quality of care report. In her report the child minder identifies strengths of her setting and areas she would like to develop further. The report includes very positive feedback from parents which demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with the service provided. For example, "Lisa is excellent at providing a safe, secure, and nurturing environment."

The child minder ensures that all household members have the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. She communicates regularly with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and is aware of her responsibility to maintain her own professional development. The child minder has undertaken a wide range of additional training to help improve her working knowledge and practices. For example, training in basic sign language. This has had a positive impact, particularly in the support she gives to children who are developing their language skills. The child minder embeds her knowledge into her practice, by supporting the children and meeting their individual needs.

The child minder has built excellent relationships with parents and professionals and makes worthwhile partnerships within the local community that improve the quality of provision and outcomes for children. The child minder keeps parents and carers very well informed about what their children are learning and how well they are progressing through updates at drop off and collection times. Parents told us they were extremely happy with the service provided. One parent told us that, the child minder makes their lives so much easier as nothing is too much trouble for her.

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