



Inspection Report

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Brecon



Date Inspection Completed

30/04/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	27 June 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>	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 settled, comfortable and happy at the child minder's home. They enjoy a good selection of age appropriate and interesting activities to support their play and learning. They have a strong voice at the setting and are involved in decision-making around daily routines and play opportunities. The children form close and affectionate relationships with the child minder. They play confidently and express themselves well in accordance with their ages and stages of development.

The child minder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in relation to children's wellbeing and safety. She is a positive role model, providing a warm and nurturing environment for children. The child minder provides a variety of play experiences, both within the home and on outings.

The child minder has appropriate record keeping systems in place. Most policies and procedures are suitably written but some need to be broadened. Partnerships with parents are good and the child minder provides a flexible service to meet the needs of families. Parents are appreciative of the service the child minder provides and value the care she offers their children.

Well-being

Good

Children are forming positive relationships in line with their age and stage of development. We noted children happily chatted away to the child minder about what was wrong with their soft toys. The children welcomed us with smiles, they were initially reserved, but they settled quickly and continued to play with their toys.

Children enjoy their time at the service. They are settled and have a strong sense of belonging. Children are clearly relaxed, comfortable, and content at the childminders home. They move around the playroom easily and select from the toys and activities they can freely access. Children attending have formed affectionate relationships with the child minder. They happily approach her for cuddles and reassurance, often. We saw children checking their soft toys with the doctor kit. At other times the children included the child minder in their games and clearly enjoyed her input. For example, whilst colouring and drawing. The child minder regularly takes children on outings to playgroups, play parks, libraries and to local amenities. This helps them to socialise and learn about the community in which they live in.

Indoors, we saw the children taking part in activities including imaginative play, playing with dolls, toys, and looking through books. The children were involved in choosing the activities and we saw them able to sustain their interest for extended periods.

Children have some opportunities to develop their independence skills. Children remove their own shoes on entry to the home and independently access their bags. They use the downstairs bathroom and wash hands independently, or with help if needed. Children access equipment and resources which are readily available to them. They help to tidy up.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to protect children. She has a range of policies in place. However, some require further development and regular review. The child minder has current training certificates in place for paediatric first aid, food safety and child protection. The child minder completes relevant documentation regarding the children in her care. There are accident, incident, and medication forms readily available in children's files. The child minder encourages children to wash their hands before meals. The child minder provides adequate snacks and meals to children. She has previous experience of supporting children with dietary needs and allergies.

The child minder promotes positive interactions and implements her basic behaviour management policy, praising children regularly. We heard her say, "good girl" and "good job" whilst children take part in activities. The child minder is sensitive to the needs of the children, recognising if they need more support during their day, offering cuddles, comfort, and reassurance. She knows the children well and engages with them at their level regularly.

The child minder provides children with suitable play and learning opportunities. Children engage in free play, with some adult support. We saw children interact with role play, craft activities, and sensory opportunities. The child minder supports children whilst mark making. Extending children's learning whilst recognising shapes, colours, and letters. She has sufficient understanding of children's development and recognises the milestones they achieve. However, there are no formal records in place to review children's development and plan their next steps. The child minder recognises each child as individuals, she works in partnership to support families and signpost information if needed.

Environment

Good

The child minder's home is safe and provides a secure environment for children. There are safety precautions in place to ensure that children have limited access to some areas of the home, for example, the first floor of the property. The child minder identifies risks and has a range of written risk assessments to ensure children's safety. Reviews of risk assessments on all areas used for child minding are in place, as well as assessments for activities and outings. The child minder undertakes regular fire evacuation drills with children, so they are familiar with procedures. An annual safety service check of the gas boiler has been conducted and certification documented in the child minder's operational file.

Children benefit from a 'home from home' environment that is child friendly. Overall, the child minder's home provides an appropriate amount of space so children can play and explore in comfort and to meet their needs. There is a suitable standard of décor throughout with sufficient natural light. The child minder uses the garden for child minding purposes and ensures that children have daily outings to the local parks, playgroups, libraries and other amenities.

The child minder has an array of toys and materials, which are well maintained and clean. There is a good range of resources for young toddlers including shape sorters and musical toys. There is also a wide range of equipment, toys and activities for the older children.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder is aware of her responsibilities in relation to her childminding business. She has a suitable selection of written policies and procedures to support her service and shares key documents with parents. However, the child minder needs to download the new safeguarding app. The child minder has a well written complaints policy in place in case parents want to raise any issues with her or the regulator CIW. All documents are stored securely, and she shares her written data protection policy with parents. She is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The child minder completes daily registers in a timely manner and individual children's contracts contain relevant information.

The child minder manages her child-minding business effectively. There are up to date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates for all persons over 16 who live at the premises. The child minder informs parents in advance of any closure of her service so they can make alternative childcare arrangements. She takes training and development of her practice seriously and has up to date core training. In addition, she undertakes a range of other courses when available to extend her knowledge of childcare issues.

The child minder is committed to improving her service and actively asks for feedback from parents and children by sending out online questionnaires. She is reflective and open to new ideas and ways of working to benefit the children in her care. She provides a quality-of-care report on an annual basis which includes the opinions of all those who use her service. Parental feedback is very positive. The information viewed during the inspection demonstrates positive views of the families who use her service, and the service is highly recommended to others by the parents.

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

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)
To download the Wales Safeguarding app

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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