



Inspection Report

Eirlys Thomas

Carmarthen

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

05/09/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Welsh
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	25 March 2019
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 interact confidently with each other and with the child minder. They enjoy their time at the child minder's home and develop strong relationships. Children enjoy their play and are developing their independence skills suitably.

The child minder understands and implements policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles and personal well-being. She demonstrates warmth and kindness towards children and ensures they feel valued and safe.

The child minder implements measures to ensure the safety and welfare of children. She provides a suitable indoor and outdoor environment for the children that attend. The childminder provides a range of resources to cater for all ages and stages of development.

The child minder's practice and policies are in line with regulations and National Minimum Standards. The child minder has formed close relationships with parents and has established partnerships with local the cylich meithrin and school through a reliable pick-up service.

Well-being	Good
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Children are confident to communicate their wishes, and their needs are considered. They have good opportunities to make choices, and their opinions are valued. For example, when children point to books or toys, the child minder responds to the children's needs by providing those resources. Children move freely around the indoor play space and happily explore the resources, enabling them to follow their own interests.

Children are happy, settled and are comfortable in the child minder's home and environment. They are familiar with the relaxed daily routine as this supports their individual needs. Children who are new to the setting are supported to settle in and are offered cuddles and reassurance throughout the day. They play successfully together. For instance, when one child opens a jigsaw book, others become interested, and support each other to complete the jigsaw pieces on each page. Children have a sense of belonging and form close relationships with the child minder and their friends. They smile when the child minder tells them what is happening next, such as story time and lunch time. Children feel safe. During the inspection visit, children are comfortable to bring different resources to us, inviting us to participate in their play.

Children's interactions are consistently good, and they cooperate and engage well. For example, when children take an interest in resources such as the musical toys and small rocking horse, the child minder responds by asking if they wish to sing or sit and ride. Children happily respond to songs sung by the child minder and join in with occasional words. They are engaged in their play and express enjoyment whilst taking part in activities such as the electronic resources and the magnetic letters on the easel. Children also initiate their own play as resources are accessible and stored at their level. For example, older children enjoy playing with the shopping basket and collecting farm animals from around the play space. Younger children enjoy the closeness of the child minder and observe the older children.

Children have opportunities to experience age-appropriate activities and a range of resources that promote their all-round development. For example, children enjoy participating in puzzles, small world resources and a hospital themed box. They take their time with the activities they choose, without being rushed. For example, whilst playing with the shape sorter, children enjoy counting the shapes and smile. Younger children enjoy sitting with the child minder to complete puzzles or to look at story books.

Children have good opportunities to develop their independence skills. Older children complete toileting tasks, washing and drying their hands without support. Children also enjoy developing their independence skills during mealtimes.

The child minder understands and implements a range of policies and procedures to promote healthy lifestyles, physical activities, personal safety, and well-being. She maintains her safeguarding training and she is knowledgeable regarding current safeguarding procedures and requirements. The child minder wears and uses appropriate resources whilst changing children's nappies. She chats with them throughout these processes considering the needs of children in a caring manner. The child minder is aware of children's medical needs and ensures permissions for the administration of medication have been obtained and records are kept. She keeps accident and incident records, and these are signed by the child minder and by parents to acknowledge the information has been shared. The child minder is knowledgeable around children's allergies and is highly aware of children's individual needs particularly around meals and activities such as baking. She is passionate about the food she provides and prepares fresh, nutritious meals every day. We saw children enjoying homemade chicken stew and the child minder told us of the choices she offers at breakfast and tea times. The child minder ensures water and fresh milk are available throughout the day.

The child minder's interactions with children are warm and familiar, demonstrating kindness, and respect. She has established close relationships with the children and engages with them in a manner which ensures a calm and comfortable learning environment. The child minder ensures that she supports children's individual needs. For example, during a milk feed, she provides close contact and reassurance with a child whilst also maintaining support and encouragement to others in their play. The child minder chats and sings throughout the day. As a result, children consistently hear positive and caring interactions.

The child minder is experienced and has a good understanding of children's development. She knows the children well and is familiar with their likes and dislikes ensuring their needs and interests are met. The child minder promotes the Welsh language through consistent interactions, songs and stories throughout the day. She ensures children have opportunities to enjoy the large garden and take part in activities such as planting and growing fruit and vegetables. The child minder ensures her home and surrounding natural environment provides an additional landscape for learning, such as seeing and watching the farm animals close by.

Environment

Good

The child minder has measures in place to ensure the environment is secure and maintained both indoors and outdoors. She offers an environment which is homely and follows suitable hygiene practices. The child minder ensures all children experience fire drill

practices on different days and times and keeps a record of these. She reviews relevant risk assessments when required. The child minder updates relevant documents for the environment as well as public liability insurance, in a timely manner. She ensures ratios are maintained and records children's attendances correctly. The child minder keeps a first aid box on the premises and keeps a record of all visitors to the setting.

The child minder offers an indoor play space within the family living area. This leads into a kitchen area where older children can sit at the table for activities and meals, as well as highchairs for younger children to enjoy meals times together. The child minder offers toilet facilities nearby which older children access independently. Outdoors, the child minder offers children play opportunities within a large and enclosed garden. She ensures children are always supervised, and she understands levels of risks. The child minder's secure garden provides further learning opportunities with a range of play areas and picnic areas for sitting to enjoy outdoor snacks. Her outdoor play areas offer age-appropriate equipment such as slides, water play, a playhouse and sit on toys. The child minder also provides a large space within the secure garden environment where children can learn about the vegetables and fruit that grow from the soil, fruit bushes and apple trees.

The child minder ensures children have access to most resources. She has, over many years, accumulated an extensive range of age-appropriate toys, which children enjoy. However, on the day of our visit, the children's clear floor space in the living area was limited due to the extensive range of toys which were stored in the same area. In the same way, the garden area offers a wide range of play resources, and the child minder acknowledged that many of outdoor play resources required sorting to remove items which are unused or broken. The child minder ensures children have plenty of life experiences to learn about their immediate community such as visits to the local shop and local gardens as well as the farming community.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder keeps policies and procedures which are in line with the National Minimum Standards. She has an established childminding service, with many years of experience and is knowledgeable regarding her regulatory responsibilities. The child minder updated some matters during the inspection episode such as her statement of purpose and details around her new child-minding assistants. She consistently ensures requirements are

met, such as Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) checks and other valid certificates. The child minder has an established filing system, where documentation is stored together confidentially. The child minder keeps children's records up to date, ensuring all required permissions are obtained from parents. All transport and vehicle documents are valid.

The child minder's quality of care review is submitted annually, openly outlining how she responds to parents and children's views to make continual improvements to her setting. During our visit, we saw the latest set of questionnaires returned from parents who praise the child minder for her daily warm welcome, her home cooking and for her ongoing communication with the families who use her setting.

The child minder keeps a record of her personal training achievements which demonstrates her commitment to her own professional development. She has attended additional training to enhance the quality of her care, such as experiential play. She ensures her mandatory training is maintained such as Food Safety, Safeguarding and Paediatric First Aid.

The child minder has established partnerships with parents over many years. She has built partnerships with the local school and the cylch meithrin nearby and offers a reliable pickup service. The child minder plans outings around the local area ensuring the children have memorable early experiences outside of her home setting.

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)
Standard 22 - Environment	Ensure the indoor play area is organised to ensure it offers scope for free movement and well spread out activities for child led play, and store away any surplus resources.
Standard 23 - Equipment	Ensure any unused or broken equipment and resources are removed as and when the need arises.

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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