



Inspection Report

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Llandysul



Date Inspection Completed

18/07/2024

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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	8 June 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use the service.

<u>Well-being</u>	Excellent
<u>Care and Development</u>	Excellent
<u>Environment</u>	Excellent
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Excellent

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

Summary

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the child minder's home because they have a strong voice and express themselves extremely well. They communicate effectively; consistently making choices about what they do and how they want to spend their time at the setting. Children engage in purposeful play-based activities and form positive friendships with their friends, the child minder and her assistant.

The child minder provides a warm and nurturing child centred setting to promote positive outcomes for children. She has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs and how best to support children in their learning and development. The child minder manages behaviours exceptionally well.

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, clean, and well maintained indoors and outdoors. The premises is welcoming, homely and exceptionally organised. The child minder provides an excellent range of engaging resources, which extend children's play and development.

The child minder is suitably qualified in child care and in play work and is very experienced. She clearly enjoys her role and has an innovative vision for her setting which promotes excellent outcomes for children. The child minder communicates effectively with parents and has a strong culture of continuous professional development. The child minder frequently looks for ways to improve her practice to ensure she meets the individual needs of the children in her care. She works effectively with other child minders and within the community. The child minder's assistant is an asset to the setting.

Well-being	Excellent
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Children are very happy and thoroughly enjoy their time at this setting. They have a strong voice and feel comfortable to express themselves. For instance, at lunch, children choose which coloured plates they wish to have their lunch on. Children are confident communicators and chat constantly with the child minder and her assistant. They have exciting opportunities to make choices and decisions. For example, following breakfast, they fully engage in a 'what's in the bag' activity and enjoy making decisions as they choose items from the bag to sing specific songs. Children's wishes are fully considered by the child minder and her assistant. For example, when a child asks to go to the toilet outdoors, they are confident that they can go immediately and be supported.

Children are very settled and clearly content at the setting. They feel safe and secure because they know the child minder and her assistant respect their feelings. Children display positive emotional bonds of attachment with the child minder and assistant and seek out reassurance, such as when they are tired. Children are very familiar with the routines and the environment. For example, following outdoor play, children know where to place their hats and shoes in large storage buckets in the kitchen after which they make their way to wash hands.

Interactions between children, the child minder and her assistant are consistently positive and sincere. Children are enthusiastic to express their views and call the child minder and assistant confidently throughout the day, knowing their wishes and needs are responded to. They openly laugh and demonstrate their delight when new activities are introduced to the daily routine. Children cooperate very well as they learn to share and take turns with each other. They are confident to ask for help and call out if they want to show their skills or achievements such as, "watch me," "look now." Children show kindness towards each other and are developing empathy towards their friends. For example, during a table activity where children explore play dough and transport cutters, they observe each other and wait for rollers saying, "thank you" and "diolch," when these are shared. Children are clearly developing close friendships and relationships.

Children have an excellent range of opportunities to engage in their play as well as some planned activities. They are motivated and confident learners and engage well in play activities. In the outdoors, children have the freedom to move around and choose where they wish to play. For example, children are engrossed in the sand pit whilst others enjoy sitting at the table with the pegs and number cards, before leaving these to explore the climbing frame and large chalk boards. They have exciting opportunities to initiate their own play and to influence their activities, freely choosing toys from the resources available.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do things for themselves such as toileting and at mealtimes. They receive consistent support from the child minder and her assistant. They are aware of children's individual needs and recognise when to step back and when to provide encouragement and support.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder fully understands her role and is passionate about her responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She consistently implements her policies, promoting

physical activities and children's wellbeing. The child minder has vigorous procedures to safeguard children and ensures safeguarding training is up to date. She implements effective cleaning routines and robust hygiene practices. For example, the child minder supports the children to develop good hygiene habits such as regular handwashing and ensures that nappy changing procedures are appropriately followed. The child minder records children's attendance times and has excellent written and digital systems in place to record accidents, incidents, medication administration, sleep and daily updates. She provides meals to children and ensures they have a varied, healthy and nutritional menu. We saw children thoroughly enjoying their home-made lunch and having sun cream applied to them before outdoor play. The child minder is experienced and professional and her assistant provides exceptional support to herself and the children.

The child minder and her assistant are very kind and nurturing towards the children. They manage children's behaviours exceptionally well using gentle tones and praise to reinforce positive behaviour. The child minder has established excellent bonds with the children and provides cuddles and affection when they seek this type of interaction. The child minder and her assistant sit with the children during their play and planned activities reinforcing language skills, good manners and positive praise. For instance, *"Ti moen un?" "Da iawn ti," "Ydy ni'n sychu trwyn?" "Diolch yn fawr," "Ti'n shario?"* The child minder also promotes early literacy experiences through making effective use of audio books. She requests these orally via a technical device so children can listen to stories spontaneously while they play. We saw children's interests being responded to enabling them to hear vocabulary and dialogue as they play. The child minder is an exemplary role model and has created a calm, nurturing and homely environment in which children can thrive.

The child minder has an excellent understanding of children's individual needs and knows them well. She promotes their play, learning and development through allowing them many opportunities to explore and follow their own interests. For example, during outdoor play children take an interest in the herb and fruit boxes which they helped to plant. The child minder supports their interests by encouraging the children to touch and smell the mint. During the inspection visit, the child minder promotes kindness through a kindness tree activity. We saw how children are fully engaged and patiently wait their turn as the child minder brings different materials to the table such as glue and scissors. The child minder encourages the children to be creative whilst promoting their fine motor skills, consistently reinforcing values such as sharing and being kind. The child minder has an excellent understanding of how to support children's learning and keeps exceptional records reflecting children's skills, progress and achievements. She is a knowledgeable practitioner and keeps purposeful observation records to inform her planning processes for the children's individual next steps of development.

Environment

Excellent

The child minder ensures the environment is safe, clean, and extremely well maintained indoors and outdoors. She has comprehensive and effective measures in place,

demonstrating that she and her assistant fully understand their responsibilities to ensure the safety of children. For instance, all safety and appliance certificates are up to date. The child minder practises regular fire drills, so children are familiar with this routine. She and her assistant supervise children well and understand the difference between acceptable and unacceptable risk for the age group of children they care for. The child minder keeps a range of risk assessments in place to support the health and safety of children including transporting children in a vehicle and experiences and activities which may give rise to risk. The child minder's home and grounds are accessed via a gate which is locked during opening hours and the main door is always locked. The child minder displays first aid boxes around her home and keeps a record of visitors to the premises. She monitors the children's sleep via an app, ensuring children are checked regularly.

The child minder's home is welcoming and exceptionally organised, with one playroom dedicated specifically for children's play and learning. She provides storage units which are designed and filled to meet the ages, stages and heights of the children. Low-level storage baskets are accessible to very young children, each being labelled with visual and bilingual signage. The child minder offers a comfortable sofa for children to relax whilst other areas of the room are designed to nurture imaginative play. A display offers Welsh word of the week, further promoting the Welsh language and culture. Children can move freely from the playroom to the child minder's kitchen where children can enjoy indoor craft activities as well as their meals. The child minder provides highchairs and adapted chairs so children can sit around a large table to enjoy the social experiences of their mealtimes. She offers an accessible child friendly downstairs toilet which is close to the kitchen and the immediate outdoor play area. The child minder and her assistant have designed and built an exceptional outdoor play space. This exciting play area presents excellent opportunities for children to safely explore and develop their curiosity and problem-solving skills. She provides a wide range of engaging areas, surfaces and resources outside, which extend children's play and physical development. The child minder ensures the outdoor area offers plenty of shade allowing the children to play outside in most weathers.

The child minder is committed to providing stimulating and purposeful resources which are suitable for the ages and stages of development. For instance, small world, loose parts, instruments and games. She encourages children to freely explore an excellent range of quality toys and play equipment to suit their individual needs. The child minder provides an extensive library of books and introduces resources and toys which promote diversity and spark exploration and imagination. She makes full use of the 'fun bus' which provides endless opportunities for children to be transported in and around the immediate community and on nature walks.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

The child minder has successfully established her setting over many years and endeavours to promote excellent outcomes for children. She strives to achieve extremely high standards and deliver excellent quality care, ensuring she provides valuable learning and development opportunities for children. The child minder provides a clear statement of

purpose providing parents with accurate and detailed information. Her policies and procedures are purposeful and are reviewed and implemented effectively. The child minder manages her setting in line with regulations and the National Minimum Standards. She ensures all aspects of paperwork are extremely organised, such as children's files and statutory requirements such as insurance and disclosure checks.

The child minder monitors the quality of her setting and plans for improvements effectively. She regularly seeks feedback from parents and children and uses the information to write an annual quality of care report and identify areas of development. The child minder's questionnaires demonstrate very high levels of satisfaction from parents and children.

The child minder ensures that her own continuous professional development is maintained through fulfilling a comprehensive training programme. She ensures that all mandatory training is kept up to date, such as food safety and first aid, including an advanced safeguarding course. In addition, she keeps up to date with current best practice and reflects on recent training and how this can impact positively on her practice. For instance, her commitment to promote the Welsh language, additional learning needs, Prevent and speech and language. The child minder appraises and supervises her assistant and ensures that these are recorded in line with regulations.

The child minder has developed strong and positive relationships with parents. Parents are very pleased with the setting and with the opportunities their children experience with the child minder and her assistant. We saw numerous thank you cards and letters expressing their gratitude for such dedicated care. We saw examples of newsletters distributed to parents providing them with regular updates. The child minder ensures she keeps parents extremely well informed and all communication and engagement systems with them are innovative and fully inclusive. The child minder records children's experiences and creates memory books for each season, each year. For example, we saw photo books which document happy and memorable experiences such as visits to the community hall, outdoor play, picnics, days at the beach, walks, planned themes, crafts and seasonal activities. The child minder told us she is also part of a close working childminding network who actively come together during the year for planned events with parents and children, such as messy play.

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

	inspection	
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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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