



Inspection Report

Mair Newell

Cardigan

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

13/09/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	8
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	5 December 2018
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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>	Adequate
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children feel very secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. They play freely, are content, and communicate their needs confidently. Children choose toys and activities which interest them from the selection available. They have positive and affectionate bonds of attachment with the child minder.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring environment and meets children's needs successfully. She offers a good range of free play opportunities and some planned activities for children to access independently or with support.

The child minder ensures the indoor environment is generally safe. She completes satisfactory general risk assessments; however these are not reviewed regularly. The child minder provides an adequate range of resources, which provide sufficient opportunities to develop children's play and learning.

The setting is managed well. The child minder has a beneficial range of policies and procedures. She is suitably qualified and has a clear vision for her service. Communication with parents is effective.

Well-being

Good

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at this setting. Children feel comfortable to express themselves and are confident when doing so. They have opportunities to make choices and decisions. For example, they move around the setting freely and make choices about the toys and activities they play with.

Children engage with the child minder, receiving nurturing and appropriate responses which makes them feel safe and valued. They are very settled and relaxed. Children display positive emotional bonds with the child minder and are completely at ease with her. Children are active and express enjoyment in their play and activities. For example, they clearly enjoy storytelling and playing with the cars, trains and trucks by smiling and laughing. Children are treated with respect and the child minder takes their views into account. For example, she asks children if they are ready for their lunch or if they would like to go outside to play.

Interactions between the children and the child minder are consistently good. Children enjoy her company and smile and laugh with her as they play and get on with the routine of the day. Children co-operate well for their age and are actively interested and engaged in the activities available to them. For example, they enjoy storytelling and sociable mealtimes with the child minder.

Children confidently choose activities that interest them. They enjoy their play and learning. For example, one child showed enjoyment and sustained interest when imaginatively playing with the toy people figures which was supported and extended by the child minder. The child's self-esteem is raised as the child minder encourages them to repeat words and phrases, with lots of praise given. Children have freedom to explore their indoor environment. They have good opportunities to initiate their own play and to influence their activities.

Children have opportunities to develop their skills and independence. They are encouraged to independently feed themselves at mealtimes as well as choose and access some resources independently.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has a range of purposeful policies, which promote the children's safety and well-being. She has procedures in place to safeguard children, appropriately and confidently answering child protection scenarios. The child minder promotes children's health successfully. Children are encouraged to wash their hands frequently, especially before and after eating. She holds current paediatric first aid and food hygiene certificates. There are effective systems in place to record accidents, incidents and medication administration. The child minder supervises children's access to the pet cat and has obtained written consent from parents.

The child minder has a behaviour management policy in place which details a positive strategy in relation to behaviour. She follows the policy and uses the management strategies effectively, praising children for their achievements. We heard her encourage and positively respond to children throughout our visit. For example, "Good boy!" and praising children enthusiastically when they finish their food. She models the language associated with good manners and always acts as a good role model. The child minder engages successfully with children, whilst promoting their learning and particularly their self-esteem. Interactions are consistently positive, demonstrating respect, warmth and kindness.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring atmosphere and gives responsive care. She is aware of the children's individual development and keeps written developmental records. However, these along with daily observations do not inform the planning and the children's next steps. She supports children in their free play, using incidental opportunities to extend discussion and learning opportunities. For example, when playing with the doll's house, she introduces new vocabulary and talks about the different characters and what they enjoy doing. The child minder uses Welsh to further develop children's communication and language.

Environment**Adequate**

The outdoor area is safe and enclosed, restricting access to the general public. The child minder keeps a record of the visitors to the premises. She practises regular fire drills at varying times so children are familiar with this routine. Some risk assessments are in place for example for the environment and outings. However, the child minder does not use these as working documents which could result in potential hazards not being identified at the setting. Since the inspection, the child minder has started creating more dynamic risk assessments which will be easier to review.

The child minder ensures the environment is generally safe, secure, and reasonably well maintained indoors and outdoors. Children can access both the living area and kitchen which allows for more play space. Within the living room, there is low-level storage which children can access when the area is clear to do so. Nappy changing and toileting takes place upstairs and children are closely supervised. The child minder has already started reviewing risk assessments associated with the stairs since the removal of the top safety gate. The child minder makes very good use of two local playgrounds to ensure children enjoy and benefit from time outdoors.

Indoors, the child minder ensures the children have access to an adequate range of toys and play equipment that suit their individual needs. Children can mostly access toys and resources themselves. When there is a lack of space to get to the storage, they ask the child minder to pull out what they want. The child minder ensures that children make use of the outdoor area, which has a mud kitchen and grassed area. However, there is a lack of resources for children to play with, for example, the mud kitchen did not have any utensils or equipment. She provides children with both Welsh and English books and resources.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder runs her service well. She is organised and maintains all the required records to a good standard. The child minder is registered with a professional association for childcare and early years. Her statement of purpose provides an accurate reflection of the service provided, meaning families can make an informed choice about whether the service meets their needs. There are a range of beneficial and thorough policies in place. The child minder is suitably qualified and has a clear vision for her service and she has some understanding of current best practice relevant to the children in her care.

The child minder reviews and reflects upon her service and produces an appropriate quality of care report. She seeks information from parents and children to support her in the evaluation of her service and provides an opportunity to make suggestions for improvements. The child minder looks at what works well and targets areas for improvement.

The child minder is suitably qualified and has booked on to relevant training to update her knowledge and understanding so that she can positively impact the children in her care. Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS) for herself and all household members are all in place. The child minder engages positively with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), swiftly acting on recommendations in relation to her service.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. Parents who completed questionnaires said that the child minder is flexible and accommodating. The child minder keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal communication and a detailed diary, which includes daily routines, observations, activities and messages.

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 24 - Safety	To review risk assessments of the premises at least annually and record any safety checks and cleaning tasks that take place to show how hazards are monitored and managed appropriately.
Standard 4 - Meeting individual needs	To ensure observations feed the planning process and identifies the next steps for learning and development.

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 provide outdoor resources to enhance the environment and promote curiosity and creativity.

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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