



Inspection Report

Faye Boulton

Caerphilly



Date Inspection Completed

18/09/2024

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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	7 August 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	The child minder is currently in the process of registering to become a Flying Start provider.
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 have excellent opportunities to make choices and follow their interests. They are very confident and relaxed and enjoy their time at the setting. They have strong bonds with the child minder. Children enjoy their play and learning and the range of activities the child minder provides. Children are developing their independence well.

The child minder is highly effective in her role in keeping children safe and healthy. She knows children very well and is observant and skilled at meeting children's needs and managing children's behaviour.

The environment is welcoming, safe, and clean. It provides children with a light and bright area to play, with a relaxed 'home from home' feel. The child minder provides good resources and facilities which enables children to take part in a variety of different activities. She makes good use of the local area to provide enriching outdoor experiences.

The child minder manages her setting extremely well, is professional and has an outstanding commitment to supporting good outcomes for the children in her care. She is highly motivated and committed to her own continuous professional development. She makes continuous improvements to the setting with the children's interests and needs at heart. She has strong partnerships with parents, the Local Authority and other child minders.

Well-being**Excellent**

Children are extremely confident in communicating their wants, needs, thoughts, and ideas. For example, children confidently tell the child minder about their school day, discuss topics that interest them, and ask questions and for help when they need it. They know the child minder fully considers them and is very interested and responsive to their needs. Children consistently receive excellent opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them, and their voice is strong. For example, we saw children choosing when they wanted to eat, what toys and activities they wanted to play with and how they would spend their time. Children's views are always considered when planning activities and projects, the voice of the child is strong.

Children are extremely happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They feel very safe in the child minder's care. Children benefit from very strong bonds of affection with the child minder who knows them well. We saw children smile happily at the child minder and laugh and chat eagerly with her whilst they carried out an activity together.

Children develop friendships with each other at the setting. They play happily with or alongside each other, depending on their age and stage of development. We saw children being kind to each other and sharing together, respecting each other and the resources available to them.

Children are highly motivated and engaged in their play and learning. We saw children enjoying the resources and eagerly choosing what they were going to play with. We saw children of various ages taking part in a variety of activities. For example, children excitedly join in with singing and independently access toys freely available to them.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop their independence skills, appropriate to their age and stage of development. We saw children feeding themselves, putting on their coats, and learning about road safety during the school pick up.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder has an excellent understanding of her role and responsibility in keeping children safe. She has a very clear understanding of safeguarding issues, the signs and symptoms of abuse, and her own duty to report any concerns. She has up to date mandatory training including safeguarding, paediatric first aid and food hygiene. The child minder carries out regular fire drills with the children ensuring that they are familiar with what to do in an emergency. She has strong systems in place to effectively record and monitor accidents, incidents, and pre-existing injuries. She is confident in recording the administration of prescribed medication. The child minder completes all records to an exemplary standard. The child minder has a very thorough knowledge of children's allergies, dietary requirements, and medical needs. She keeps accurate registers of children's attendance. The child minder promotes health and hygiene at the setting. For example, we saw her encourage children to wash their hands before a healthy snack was served. The child minder ensures children have access to regular outdoor play experiences, both in her garden and in the local area. This offers children the benefits of physical exercise and fresh air. Outings are extremely well managed; we saw children being walked home from school in a very calm and safe way.

The child minder is exceptionally warm and caring with the children. Her responsive, nurturing approach means children feel very comfortable and relaxed and this sets the tone for interactions between them. The child minder is an excellent role model and uses plenty of praise to reinforce and encourage positive behaviour. We saw children praised for being kind and polite and any unwanted behaviour was gently discouraged. The child minder has a superior understanding of child development, its impact on children's behaviour and of the needs of each individual child. She paces the day wisely and carefully listens to and is observant of children ensuring they do not become over tired or overwhelmed. This in turn supports their behaviour.

The child minder naturally extends children's learning by chatting to them and responding to what they are doing in a very meaningful way. She has highly effective and thorough systems in place for observing and assessing children's development and progress. She uses these and her outstanding skills and knowledge to facilitate play and learning opportunities which meet children's individual needs, supporting them to develop. The child minder knows children exceptionally well and ensures that children can follow their own interests which motivates them to learn. She is quick to recognise children with emerging needs and knows which routes of referral to follow to access the appropriate services for support. The child minder works exceptionally well in partnership with parents and professionals to support the development of children with additional learning needs. The child minder uses incidental Welsh with children.

Environment

Good

The setting is safe and secure. The external entrance is locked, the child minder ensures only authorised access and keeps a record of visitors. Routine safety certificates are up to date. Safety precautions are in place in the downstairs of the house. Risk assessments for the environment in general are effective and the child minder completes safety checks daily. However, at the time of inspection, the garden was undergoing a process of redevelopment and risk assessments had not identified all risks presented during this period. The child minder acted swiftly to address this once it was identified.

The home environment is warm, comfortable, and very well maintained. It provides children with a very attractive light and bright area to play. They benefit from a 'home from home' atmosphere, allowing them to relax as well as play and learn. Children have access to the playroom, lounge, dining room and kitchen. The choice of rooms ensures plenty of space and choice for activities such as eating, playing, sleeping, art and craft activities and messy play. Children are always supervised in the kitchen. There is direct access to the garden area from the playroom. The garden provides a useful and pleasant space for children to enjoy play and learning in the fresh air, and the childminder has plans to develop this area further. The toilet area is adjacent to the kitchen and easily accessed by children promoting their independence.

The child minder provides a wide range of high quality, developmentally appropriate resources both indoors and outdoors. These contain a mix of natural and man-made materials with many attractive wooden resources. Real life and multicultural items promote children's awareness of equal opportunities and cultural diversity. Resources are clean and in good condition. Resources are well-organised, and many are easily accessible to the children. The setting contains furniture to support children's independence. For example, child sized tables and chairs.

Leadership and Management

Excellent

Leadership of the setting is excellent. The child minder has a very strong sense of purpose. She seeks to promote and sustain excellent outcomes for children. She is very conscientious, professional and passionate about children's wellbeing. The child minder is highly organised and there is an extensive range of policies and procedures which reflect current practice and are regularly reviewed. Written records are kept very consistently and effectively and are stored securely. She has an up-to-date statement of purpose, which is compliant with regulations. The child minder ensures her public liability insurance is valid and that children's records are completed, organised and include contracts, up to date children's information, and parental consent forms. The child minder understands her regulatory responsibilities very well.

The child minder is very committed to her continued professional development. She is well-qualified and experienced in child development and regularly undertakes additional training to further develop her skills and knowledge. She consults with children, parents, and outside agencies to gain feedback and seek suggestions when she carries out her annual quality of care review. The child minder is fully engaged with the inspection process as part of her self-evaluation and improvement. She uses guidance to implement changes and drive improvement to better outcomes for children.

Partnerships are excellent. The child minder works closely with the Local Authority to ensure she is constantly up to date and developing her practice and her setting as much as possible. For example, she is currently in the process of registering to provide Flying Start places and has been awarded the Gold Standard Healthy Snack award. The child minder works with other child minders in the area, at times joining together, for example for joint days out in the holidays. The child minder has very strong partnerships with parents. Feedback received from parents evidences that they are extremely happy with the care given. They feel at ease knowing their children are cared for in such a positive and nurturing way.

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	Ensure Risk Assessments are updated and reviewed when there are any changes to the premises or the needs of the children.

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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