



Inspection Report

Caru Evans

Llandysul

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

05/08/2024

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About the service

| | |
|---|--|
| Type of care provided | Child Minder |
| Registered places | 10 |
| Language of the service | Both |
| Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection | 28 September 2023 |
| 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. |

Summary

This was a focused inspection, and, on this occasion, we have not considered each theme in full.

Children are settled, happy and have opportunities to make choices. Children have solid bonds with the child minder. Overall, they interact nicely with each other and co-operate well, taking turns and sharing. They are developing their independence and enjoy learning through play.

The child minder has taken steps to review some of her policies, procedures, and documentation to keep children healthy and safe. Risk assessments are in place, and she takes measures to manage any emerging risks that present themselves. Overall, she implements satisfactory infection control practices and promotes hygiene practices with the children.

The child minder has implemented some positive changes to ensure she offers a safe environment for children. She does not always maintain accurate attendance records of visitors.

Overall, the leadership and management of the setting is improving. Recommendations and some areas for improvement have been rectified following the last visit, however there are remaining areas of improvement requiring action. Records are mostly in place for children and staff. Staff appraisals are in place and the child minder has started on the process of conducting staff supervisions. Policies and procedures have been reviewed following the visit.

Well-being

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Children are happy and relaxed at the setting. They have many choices, such as what to play with, where they spend their time and whether they want to do things independently or receive help. Children move freely around the dedicated playroom, choosing from the many toys available that are of interest to them. They are confident that their choices will be valued and are happy to express themselves.

Children feel safe and happy at the setting and quickly form positive attachments with the child minder and other children. For example, children play happily together in the role play kitchen and enjoy chatting to one another and the child minder during lunch time. Children form warm and affectionate relationships with the child minder. For example, a child happily sat next to the child minder on the sofa and cuddled into her when tired.

Interactions between children are generally positive. They co-operate and manage their behaviour appropriately. For example, two children shared access to the soft play equipment and took turns to slide down the shapes. At lunch time they chatted confidently, discussing their water bottles.

Children are happy in their play and learning. They engage in their own activities or with a friend. Children concentrate well, sustaining interest in things they have chosen to do for appropriate periods of time. For example, we saw one child concentrating as they collected items of clothing for the doll and asked for support to dress the doll. They respond well to encouragement from the child minder with helping to dress the doll.

Children are independent. They access resources independently and know the daily routines well. Children's independence is promoted consistently. For example, the child minder supports children to make their own sandwich at lunch time rather than doing it for them. Children enjoy tidying resources independently and confidently place these in the correct storage boxes. As a result, the children show pride in their independent skills. This is an improvement made following the previous inspection visit.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

During the visit, we found the child minder has a current paediatric first aid certificate which is suitable for the ages of children cared for. However, the assistant did not. The child minder informed us formal training has been arranged. This is noted as an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take immediate action. Following the visit, we were provided with a certificate evidencing online training had been completed in the interim as they await formal face to face first aid training. The child minder has a valid safeguarding and food hygiene certificate. The child minder ensures risk assessments are in place and these identify potential hazards to children within the child minders home and when on outings. She ensures accidents and incidents are recorded, however parents do not sign to acknowledge they have been made aware of these. This is an ongoing recommendation from the previous inspection visit.

The child minder provides food for children and promotes good hygiene practices with the children. For example, the child minder and the children wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before eating. She wipes tables before food is served. Children sit together for mealtimes, which provides opportunities to promote children's social skills and encourages conversation between the children. We discussed hygiene within the nappy changing procedure with the child minder as the procedures are not in line with current infection control guidance. This is an ongoing recommendation from the previous inspection visit.

The child minder promotes a free choice environment for the children. There is no formal planning in place for activities and the child minder does not keep a written record of children's development. This is an ongoing recommendation from the previous inspection visit. The child minder informed us she is in the process of implementing the use of an app to record children's development.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The environment is welcoming, and the layout of the playroom promotes children's independence enabling them to make their own choices about what they want to play with. The outdoor area is spacious and consists of a playhouse and ride on toys to help develop children's physical skills.

The child minder has satisfactory measures in place to ensure the safety and welfare of children. She ensures all exits are locked with adult accessible keys. The child minder keeps a written record of nearly all visitors to the setting, however the record does not always accurately reflect all visitors. The child minder has risk assessments in place for indoor and outdoor areas. The child minder ensures that access to the kitchen is restricted. She has actioned recommendations made at the previous inspection visit in relation to the safety of the environment.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Overall, the child minder manages the setting adequately. She is keen to improve the quality of the care she provides. The child minder continues to address areas for improvement and recommendations. Following the visit, the statement of purpose was updated and accurately reflects the service offered, enabling parents to make an informed choice. The child minder has an adequate range of policies, procedures, and documentation to support the management of the setting.

The child minder has made some improvements to the leadership and management of the setting. She has made improvements in the management of staff. Since the last inspection she has conducted formal written appraisals for her assistant. On the day of the visit, there were no formal written records for supervisions. However, following the visit we were provided with evidence of a written staff supervision record. The child minder has a staff file evidencing the suitability of the assistant. On the day of the visit, the staff file was missing documentation, and this was an ongoing issue from the previous inspection visit. Following this inspection visit, we have been provided with evidence of documentation that was missing which included proof of identification, a recent photograph, CV, medical declaration of health and proof of safeguarding training. Therefore, this is no longer an area for improvement.

The child minder does not always maintain appropriate ratios or record children's and staff attendance accurately. As a result, this is noted as an area for improvement, and we expect the child minder to take immediate action in relation to this. During the visit, records did not clearly evidence who was looking after the children at all times, for example during school runs. Following the visit, the child minder has implemented a daily record sheet showing who is looking after the children at all times. During the inspection visit, the child minder was working solely due to numbers being low. Overall, the child minder supervises children appropriately, however there were short periods of time where children were left in the playroom without adult supervision. This is noted as an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take immediate action.

The child minder gathers information from parents and carers about children, before they use the service. However, not all children had permission in place for emergency medical treatment, as well as other permissions including photographs, outings, travelling in the child minder's car and so on. The child minder shares information with parents verbally as they collect their children. She intends to implement the use of an app to keep parents informed of daily activities.

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 |
|------------|---|--------|
| 24 | The provider is non compliant as they have failed to ensure at least one adult has valid first aid training | New |

| | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| | when caring for children. | |
| 30 | The provider is non compliant as records submitted for daily registers were not a true reflection of who was caring for the children. The service provider does not keep a daily record of who is looking after the children at all times, for example during the school run and when the assistant is present. | New |
| 20 | The provider must ensure children are supervised at all times. | New |
| 29 | The provider is non compliant as assistants have not been provided opportunities for supervisions and appraisals. | Not Achieved |
| 28 | The provider is non compliant as staff files evidencing suitability were not fully in place for assistants. | Achieved |
| 15 | The provider is non complaint as the statement of purpose did not include all information required by regulations. | Achieved |

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 10 - Healthcare | Ensure written permission is in place for emergency medical treatment. |
| Standard 5 - Records | Ensure parents/carers sign all accident and existing injuries records. |
| Standard 15 - Staffing ratios | Ensure the adult to child ratio is maintained at all times. |
| Standard 7 - Opportunities for play and learning | Ensure activities are planned for children and assessments are in place to track progression. |

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) |
| Ensure practice reflects policies and procedures, for example nappy changing, food preparation and safe use of equipment. |

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