



Inspection Report

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Cardiff



Date Inspection Completed

26/11/2024

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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	This is the first inspection of the setting since it was registered.
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service is not making a significant effort to promote the use of Welsh language and culture.

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

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

Summary

Children are extremely happy, have fun and thrive in the child minder's care. They have excellent relationships with the child minder and her family. Children are confident communicators and frequently make decisions about their care and play. They progress well in their development through skilful support from the child minder.

The child minder implements particularly good policies and procedures to promote children's health and safety. She has completed many training courses and implements what she has learned effectively in her practice. The child minder provides an extremely interesting and stimulating environment through well-planned and resourced activities.

The child minder's home is very well maintained with safety aspects carefully considered, to provide a safe and interesting space for operating a child minding service. The child minder adapts her home well to provide extremely good facilities for children to play and relax. There are excellent resources providing children with plenty of variety to meet their individual needs and interests.

The child minder is very professional in her approach and is highly organised in providing a quality service for children and parents. She is reflective and has made several changes to her service through her robust quality assurance processes. She has very good partnerships with parents and has developed useful contacts with the local authority and other professional bodies to support her.

Well-being

Excellent

Children have a strong voice at the setting. They express themselves confidently because they know their ideas, wishes and choices are listened to. Younger children are given many opportunities throughout the day to make informed decisions about their play and care. For example, the child minder frequently asks younger children what they would like to do and the children gesture or ask for what they want such as to play outside. Older children make their own choices freely as they move easily between play areas and select toys they want to play with.

Children feel safe and are happy and relaxed in the child minder's care. They spontaneously approach the child minder for support or a cuddle. Children told us they love coming and spoke about what they do at the child minders with excitement. For example, they enjoy going for walks and playing outside. They respond positively to praise, developing elevated levels of self-esteem. For example, a child beamed with delight when they successfully named colours in Welsh as they painted ceramic tiles outside.

Children behave very well and interact meaningfully with other children at the setting. Older children are mindful of the needs of younger children and support them with activities such as playing with the light box, extending their enjoyment. They enjoy each other's company. They chat together and listen to what other have to say as they sit for tea and play together. Children readily engage the child minder in their play and follow her gentle reminders to follow instruction such as tidying away toys, so they do not trip over them.

Children take the lead in their play and actively follow their interests. They enjoy making food for the forest animals in the 'kitchen' and talk about how they collect natural items such as twigs and cones, on their regular walks and use them in their play. Children really enjoyed activities that are based on their interests and motivates them in positive learning experiences. They spent time using a magnet to discover what it stuck to and what it did not. They listen attentively to explanations and learn new concepts as they play. As a result, children have great fun while learning and make big strides in their speech and language.

Children thrive and make excellent progress in their learning and development. They have good opportunities to develop their independence. Children from an early age learn skills to be able to problem solve and manage tasks for themselves including, washing hands, using the toilet, and eating their food independently. Children gain valuable critical thinking skills by being encouraged to take time to work things out for themselves such as mixing paint to make their favourite colour. They are successfully learning key information about numbers, the weather, and the days of the week in both Welsh and English. They enjoy being outdoors and this supports their physical skills as well as developing their appreciation of a sustainable environment.

Care and Development

Excellent

The child minder is very experienced in working with children. She undertakes extensive training and does research into various childcare topics to support her to be effective in her role. She has very good policies and care practice measures in place to effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in her care. The child minder keeps these under review. She gives safeguarding a very high priority and has completed the most up to date safeguarding training as well as completing training in various other safeguarding areas such as Prevent. The child minder is confident in her knowledge of child protection issues and the procedures to follow with any child welfare concern. She has current paediatric first aid training and has undertaken a very wide variety of other training such as additional needs and diversity. The child minder promotes healthy lifestyles, providing children with fresh drinking water and healthy snacks.

The child minder has a clear behaviour management policy in place. She adopts a calm, positive approach to managing children's behaviour and is enthusiastic and kind in her interactions. She uses her experience and training to manage interactions effectively. The child minder reminds children what the expectations of behaviour are, ensuring they are clear and understand about the house rules. She supervises them well, intervening appropriately to minimise any impact of children's behaviour on others. The child minder knows children's individual needs and personalities well and uses this knowledge to motivate them to develop resilience and self-discipline, which supports them to successfully manage their own behaviour.

The child minder promotes children's play and learning extremely successfully, planning stimulating activities that respond to their interests and individual learning needs. She has a robust system in place to gather information about the children's needs before they start, and to monitor their development, whilst at the service. The child minder has a very thorough method of planning activities and ensures resources to support activities are plentiful and interesting. The child minder regularly takes photographs during activities. These show children enjoying an exceptionally broad range of activities covering all areas of learning, including outdoor visits in the community and multicultural celebrations.

Environment

Excellent

The child minder's home is safe and provides a secure environment for children. She takes good precautions to ensure that children have limited access to some areas of the home, for example, the first floor of the property. The child minder identifies risks and has a range of written risk assessments to ensure children's safety. These include when on or off the premises and for numerous activities. The child minder undertakes regular fire evacuation drills with children, so they are familiar with procedures. She maintains the home to a high standard and ensures the gas systems are safe by having a professional to maintain them.

The child minder offers a rich, child-centred environment that is friendly and inviting. Children benefit from a playroom in the conservatory that is set up to provide extremely interesting areas for children to play. There is direct access to the rear garden area which further extends the expansive activities available to children. The child minder uses the large lounge for quieter activities and there are comfortable settees where children can relax. The child minder displays children's craft prominently in the play area, giving the children a sense of pride, and belonging. Children access suitable facilities for them to eat in the dining area and the child minder provides equipment so children can eat at the table together. Toilet facilities are located off the hallway, and equipment provides good opportunities for children to access the facilities independently whilst allowing the child minder to easily supervise and support them.

The child minder provides a wealth of high- quality toys and resources that provide excellent play opportunities and challenge for children. The resources promote their learning, and engage their interests very well, such as role-play, reading and fine motor skill activities. The child minder provides resources that reflect real life and the natural environment. She updates the resources to enhance current themes and topics. The child minder has many authentic resources that promote the Welsh language and other cultures, which help children begin to appreciate diversity and a multicultural society.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder is committed to providing an exceptionally good quality service for both children and parents. She has a strong vision for her setting and strives to support children to thrive and reach their full potential. The statement of purpose contains accurate and useful information for parents about the service provided. She manages her service well and reviews policies and procedures regularly. All necessary paperwork is in place and is well organised. For example, the child minder maintains accident and attendance records well. The child minder completes daily registers in a timely manner and individual children's records and contracts contain relevant information. She stores documents securely, and she shares her written data protection policy with parents. She is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The child minder has a good system in place to review her service. She completes an annual quality of care review on all aspects of her service. This reflects on feedback from parents, outlines her strengths and any areas to develop across all themes. She is reflective and continually looks at ways she can improve and build on her already exceptionally good quality service. She is receptive to feedback from other professionals and is quick to make any changes to further improve the service and experiences of children.

The child minder manages her child-minding business effectively. She works alone and organises her time well. She has considered how she will manage an emergency and has a backup child minder in place to support her if required. She has Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates for all persons over 16 who live at the premises. The child minder informs parents in advance of any closure of her service so they can make alternative childcare arrangements. She is motivated and committed to continuous professional development and undertakes extensive training.

The child minder works closely with parents to help smooth their child's transition into her care. She requests information about the children's preferences and individual needs before they start, and updates this as needed. This ensures children continually receive a good level of care. The child minder keeps parents well informed about their child's time at her setting. She provides parents with daily photographs via a digital app and verbal feedback on the well-being of their child. The child minder has developed beneficial links with other local child minders. They meet up at playgroups and for outings enabling children to make friends and socialise with other children. The child minder has a good relationship with the local authority childcare team, who provide support, information, and training.

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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