



Inspection Report

Sionna Hutton

Aberystwyth

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

27/08/2024

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	9
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection post registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

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

Summary

Children feel safe, happy, and relaxed. Nearly all are confident and have a good voice. Children's interactions with each other and with the child minder are good. They enjoy their play opportunities. Children are beginning to develop independence skills.

The child minder is kind and supports children in a warm and positive manner. She is aware of her responsibilities in keeping children safe and promotes healthy habits. The child minder uses effective methods to manage interactions, providing a nurturing care and encouraging positive social skills. She knows the children well and plans effectively to meet their individual needs.

The child minder ensures the property is clean, welcoming, and comfortable. She uses appropriate systems to ensure the environment is safe and secure. Overall, the child minder ensures children have access to a small range of good quality resources suitable for their ages and stages of development.

The child minder manages her service well and understands her regulatory responsibilities. She ensures her training and suitability checks are kept up to date and parents are kept well informed about their children's development and of any changes to the setting.

Well-being

Good

Children have a good voice and some express themselves well, for example one child stated they wanted to help prepare and peel the fruit and vegetables for their morning snack, and this was acknowledged. They play freely and make choices about the toys and activities they play with from the selection available. For example, children enjoy playing with the trains and celebrating when they manage to use all the pieces of the train track.

Children feel safe, happy, and valued. They are very settled and clearly have a strong sense of belonging. Children know the setting's routines well. For example, children make their way to the dining table when it is snack time. They form good relationships with each other, learning to share toys with some support. They are clearly cared for by a child minder who knows them very well. There are obvious bonds of affection and attachment as children sit on the child minder's lap whilst listening to a story. Children's decisions and preferences are considered. They told the child minder they didn't want to eat the rest of their snack, and this was respected.

Children interact positively, co-operating and learning to share with each other. Whilst playing with the ride on car, we heard children ask one another, *'Is it my turn now?'* Children enjoy zooming around the garden on their bikes, asking another child politely if they could move their car out of the way to make more space. Children show some interest in their play and learning and they sustain their play for an age-appropriate length of time.

Children are developing their independence appropriately, enabling them to do things for themselves. We saw some children access the bathroom and wash their hands with very little support. They access their own drinks during snack and feed themselves independently. Older children are encouraged to wipe their own faces following food. Children are also encouraged to assist with the tidying of resources.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She organises regular cleaning routines that reflect good hygiene practices. The child minder's good infection control practices minimise any risks to children's health and safety. She encourages the children to wash their hands frequently especially before and after mealtimes. The child minder only prepares healthy snacks such as a selection of fruit and vegetables including carrots, orange, banana, blueberries and strawberries. She ensures all appropriate food hygiene records are completed. The child minder evidenced purposeful risk assessments, showing that nearly all risks have been considered and minimised where possible. The child minder has a good understanding of safeguarding procedures and has completed all relevant training. The child minder maintains children's registers which are accurate and include arrival and departure times. The child minder ensures children's privacy and dignity is respected when they use the toilet or have their nappies changed.

The child minder manages interactions positively with children. She is a valuable role model and has a kind and warm approach towards care giving. For example, reminding children about the importance of manners and sharing. Reminders of saying '*Please*' and '*Thank you*' were heard throughout the day. The child minder manages children's behaviour effectively and children wait their turn for support appropriately. She uses distraction techniques and responds positively to the children.

The child minder supports children's learning skilfully and plans and prepares good activities partly based on their interests. The child minder assesses children's progress and monitors their learning and development using appropriate records. The child minder ensures that she engages with children skilfully during their play activities. She is clearly aware of the importance of routines and habits and allows children to choose when they want to interact with her. For example, she joined them in their play and played a role in their imaginary play. She sometimes uses basic incidental Welsh words and phrases.

Environment

Good

The child minder ensures the premises is clean, safe and well maintained. She provides a welcoming and friendly environment for children. The child minder keeps a record of all visitors to the setting including arrival and departure times. The front door is kept locked when the children arrive, and there are safety gates to ensure children cannot access stairs unnoticed. Regular fire drills and safety checks are in place, ensuring any potential hazards are monitored and risks are eliminated. However, children would benefit from fire drills that consider all means of escape from the property. The child minder monitors and responds to any potential hazards in a timely manner. For instance, she completes daily checks of all areas, toys and resources and addresses any issues that may arise. All potential hazards and the steps taken to minimise or eliminate these hazards are outlined within written risk assessments.

The premises is welcoming and accessible to all. Children benefit from a lounge area which is homely and bright. There are low-level furniture and storage drawers containing toys and resources with floor space to play. Children can request further resources from the cupboard. Children can easily access a downstairs bathroom which is clean, well maintained and child friendly. There are areas for children to relax as well as opportunities for children to socialise and eat together at the dining table. The outdoor area comprises of ride on toys, a mud kitchen and a large wooden playhouse.

Inside, the child minder encourages children to explore an adequate range of toys and play equipment made available to them, for example dolls' house, books, bricks, train track, dolls' crib, pushchair, stickle bricks, puzzles, stacking toys, sensory toys, magnetic tiles and musical instruments. The child minder told us she regularly refreshes and renews the resources in line with what children enjoy and according to children's age. She makes sure the children have access to a small range of equipment that mostly suit their age and stage of development. The child minder has some resources to promote the understanding of diversity and cultures including books and dolls. She explained to us that she also celebrates a range of festivals and cultures relevant to the children in her care.

Leadership and Management

Good

The child minder has a good understanding of her role and regulatory responsibilities and

provides a range of policies to enable her to run her service safely and effectively. These policies are reviewed and updated regularly so they contain up to date information. However, the safeguarding policy did not include any reference to radicalisation or prevent duty. The child minder has a detailed statement of purpose, which gives a clear and accurate description of the setting. This enables parents to make an informed decision about whether the setting can meet theirs and their child's needs.

The child minder regularly seeks feedback from parents and children. She outlines some of the improvements made to date and those planned for the next year within an annual quality of care review report. Parent feedback questionnaires show they are very happy with the setting and the care provided to their children. Parents told us: *"Our home away from home! My son has been going to Sionna for a long time now after school once a week. He really enjoys going and feels very much at home in her house and with her family. Immensely grateful to Sionna for her work."*

The child minder ensures that her own as well as household members' Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are valid and up to date. She ensures Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) are notified following significant incidents or changes to the service as required by the regulations. Her first aid and safeguarding training is up to date in order to maintain a good understanding of current best practice in these aspects.

The child minder has developed positive relationships with parents and shares information effectively. Records provided show the child minder gathers all required information about children prior to them attending. This allows her to plan effectively and to work with families in order to meet children's individual needs. Parents sign to show they have received and understood all the service's policies prior to their child attending. The child minder ensures children have opportunities to learn about the community in which they live by spending lots of time visiting the local areas, such as parks, places of interest and local groups.

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)
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure fire drills allow children to consider all escape routes to leave the property safely
Standard 20 - Child protection	Ensure prevent duty and radicalisation is considered within the safeguarding policy

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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