



Arolygiaeth Gofal
Cymru
Care Inspectorate
Wales

Inspection Report

Dawn Lloyd-Jones



Llanfechain



07967503678

The inspection visit took place on 30/09/2026

Service Information:

Operated by:	Dawn Lloyd-Jones
Care Type:	Child Minder
Registered places:	10
Main language(s):	Welsh and English
Flying Start service:	No
Receive funding to provide early years part time education:	No
Promotion of Welsh language and culture:	The provider makes an effort to promote the use of the Welsh language and culture or is working towards a bilingual service.

Ratings:



Well-being

Excellent



Care & Development

Excellent



Environment

Excellent



Leadership & Management

Excellent

Summary:

Children thrive as their well-being, needs and interests are at the heart of practice and care they receive. Children communicate confidently, make independent choices and lead their own play. They show exceptional enjoyment, motivation, kindness and respect for others. Children engage in rich, meaningful experiences that successfully promote their confidence, independence, resilience and all-round development.

The childminder and her assistant promote children's safety, health and well-being exceptionally well through good safeguarding practice, effective emergency procedures and a nurturing approach. They model respectful behaviour, encourage positive choices and support meaningful social interactions. Their excellent understanding of child development, combined with effective planning, assessment and partnership working, ensures all children make outstanding progress and thrive.

The childminder provides an exceptionally safe, secure and highly stimulating environment where children thrive. Robust risk management, daily safety checks and secure access arrangements prioritise children's welfare. Children benefit from inspiring indoor and outdoor spaces, abundant high-quality resources and enriching play experiences that promote confidence, independence, curiosity, creativity and year-round learning.

The childminder provides exceptionally strong leadership, maintaining high standards that consistently exceed the National Minimum Standards. Robust self-evaluation, effective management of her assistant and a strong commitment to safeguarding drive continuous improvement. Excellent partnerships with parents, carers, personalised family support, strong community involvement and effective collaboration with professionals contribute to outstanding outcomes for children and their families.

Findings:



Well-being

Excellent

Children's well-being, needs and interests are consistently placed at the heart of the childminders and assistance practice. Children are highly confident that adults value and respect their views and respond positively to their choices and preferences. They make meaningful decisions about their daily experiences. This results in children expressing themselves exceptionally well and communicating their needs, preferences and ideas with confidence using both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication. Children move freely and with purpose throughout the environment, making independent choices about activities that interest and engage them. Children's emerging interests are responded to exceptionally well, enriching and extending their play successfully. For example, when a child shows an interest in washing a ride-on tractor, they are provided with a range of resources that enhance and deepen the play experience. Children confidently make choices about their snacks and drinks and readily express their preferences.

Children interact exceptionally well with one another and consistently demonstrate respect, kindness and consideration for others. They confidently share space and resources, enabling all children to move freely around the setting and independently access their chosen play experiences. Children develop a strong understanding of fairness as they take turns, wait patiently when necessary and recognise the needs of others. Children show empathy and thoughtfulness in their interactions. For example, when another child wanted to use a brush, a child independently ensured they passed it to them as soon as they had finished using it. Children display excellent manners, regularly using 'please' and 'thank you' appropriately and respectfully. They value and care for resources, use them responsibly and willingly help to tidy away equipment.

Children demonstrate high levels of enjoyment as they participate in a rich variety of fun and meaningful play experiences. They show exceptional motivation and enthusiasm in their play and learning. Children actively engage in experiences for sustained periods and confidently make choices about what they want to do. Children lead their own play successfully, following their interests and exploring resources independently. For example, they freely access chalks to create floor drawings and independently use a roller to wash a tractor as part of their imaginative and exploratory play.

Children's individual needs, preferences and interests are understood by the childminder and her assistant which ensures they are provided with an extensive range of exciting opportunities that promote their all-round development. Children enthusiastically engage in a broad variety of opportunities that support their physical, creative and imaginative development. They actively develop their physical skills as they run, climb, balance and ride wheeled toys outdoors. Children demonstrate high levels of creativity and imagination as they create pretend meals in the mud

kitchen and immerse themselves in imaginative play scenarios. Children confidently follow their own interests, make independent choices and successfully lead their own play. As a result, they develop exceptional confidence, independence, resilience and curiosity, supporting them to become enthusiastic and capable learners.



The childminder and her assistant demonstrate an excellent understanding of their responsibilities for keeping children safe and promoting their well-being. They maintain a good knowledge of safeguarding procedures and know what to do if they have concerns about a child. They complete registers accurately and record all visitors, ensuring they can account for everyone on the premises. The childminder regularly conducts fire drills and lockdown procedures, enabling children, the assistant and herself to respond confidently and effectively in an emergency.

The childminder places a strong emphasis on promoting healthy lifestyles and positive well-being. She provides a wide range of nutritious, home-cooked meals that children thoroughly enjoy and value. The quality of these meals is highly regarded by families, with parents encouraging her to compile a book to share her recipes. The childminder and her assistant provide frequent opportunities for children to be physically active and enjoy fresh air through daily access to the outdoor environment and regular visits to local places of interest. As a result, children develop exceptionally positive attitudes towards healthy eating, physical activity and living healthy lifestyles.

The childminder and her assistant are exceptionally positive role models for children. They communicate with warmth and respect, consistently modelling appropriate language and good manners. They use positive behaviour management strategies effectively when needed, discussing expectations with children and encouraging them to make positive choices. They create meaningful opportunities for children to socialise and share their experiences throughout the day. For example, they sit with children at lunchtime, engaging them in conversations about their activities and experiences so far and discussing what they would like to do later in the day.

The childminder demonstrates an extensive understanding of child development and uses this knowledge effectively to support children's learning and development across a wide range of skills. She maintains a thorough system for identifying, monitoring and tracking each child's individual progress. Observations completed by both the childminder and her assistant contribute meaningfully to this process. They identify and display children's next steps so they can refer to them when required and use them effectively when planning activities and resources. The childminder works closely with parents and external agencies, when needed, to support children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). She uses the Welsh language effectively to support children who speak Welsh as a first language and to introduce and develop Welsh words and phrases with all children.



Environment

Excellent

The childminder provides an exceptionally safe and secure environment where children's welfare remains a clear priority. She completes comprehensive risk assessments for all areas used by children and reviews them regularly to ensure she identifies and manages hazards effectively. The childminder controls access to the setting by keeping external gates and doors locked and using a video doorbell system. She conducts daily safety checks to identify and eliminate any new hazards wherever possible.

The childminder provides an exceptionally clean, safe and meticulously maintained environment where children feel secure, valued and highly motivated to play, explore and learn. She creates a warm, welcoming and inspiring setting that successfully promotes children's confidence, independence and enjoyment. Children benefit from access to a variety of thoughtfully organised spaces that support a broad and engaging range of play and learning experiences. The kitchen and dining area provide excellent opportunities for children to participate in creative and purposeful activities, including crafts, board games and sensory play with dough. The lounge is organised exceptionally well into stimulating areas of learning. Children enjoy outstanding opportunities to play and learn outdoors in two highly inviting and stimulating outdoor areas located at the front and rear of the home. The rear garden is directly accessible from the lounge, providing seamless free-flow access that enables children to move independently between indoor and outdoor play when weather conditions permit. The childminder maximises the use of the outdoor environment and ensures children have suitable clothing to enjoy outdoor play throughout the year.

The environment is equipped to an exceptionally high standard, creating stimulating and highly engaging areas that inspire children to explore, play and learn independently. Children confidently access a wide range of thoughtfully selected and organised resources. The childminder continually enhances the environment by introducing engaging play spaces and resources that reflect children's current interests, ensuring their experiences remain meaningful, exciting and relevant. The childminder uses authentic resources creatively to stimulate children's curiosity and imagination. For example, children access real kitchen utensils in the mud kitchen and enjoy adding real spices to their creations, enhancing their sensory experiences. The outdoor environment supports children's physical, creative and exploratory play excellently well. Children benefit from abundant opportunities to ride wheeled toys, run freely and access a wide range of resources, including chucks, bubbles and books. The childminder creates rich, stimulating spaces that successfully promote curiosity, creativity and engagement with natural materials. Children enthusiastically mix coloured water to experiment with colour changes. They enjoy digging, filling and investigating materials in the sand area, while the cosy sheltered space with cushions provides an attractive area for children to relax, read and socialise with their peers.



The childminder demonstrates exceptional commitment and maintains a clear vision for her setting and the high-quality care she provides. She leads the service with confidence and professionalism, drawing on her extensive knowledge of regulatory requirements to maintain high levels of effective practice. She not only meets but consistently exceeds the National Minimum Standards, resulting in highly successful outcomes for children. The childminder maintains extremely well-organised records and reviews documentation regularly to ensure it reflects current guidance, legislation and best practice.

Self-evaluation is thorough, meaningful and ongoing, effectively driving sustained improvement across the setting. The childminder consistently uses her findings to refine and strengthen practice. For example, she has introduced a more comprehensive system for tracking and recording children's progress. This enables both the childminder and her assistant to maintain a detailed understanding of each child's individual needs, achievements and next steps in their learning and development. They share this information effectively with parents, promoting strong partnerships and ensuring children receive superb well-targeted support.

The childminder demonstrates highly effective management of her assistant to an excellent standard, ensuring all requirements relating to suitability, safeguarding and professional development are consistently met. She maintains comprehensive records, including all required suitability checks, and ensures her assistant completes mandatory training to support high-quality practice and positive outcomes for children. Through regular, purposeful supervision and appraisal meetings, she creates valuable opportunities to reflect on practice, share information and identify professional development needs. As a result, her assistant receives effective support, develops her skills and contributes positively to the consistent delivery of exceptionally high-quality care. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding. She ensures her own Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, along with those of all household members aged 16 years and over, remains current and fully compliant with requirements.

The childminder establishes exceptionally strong partnerships with parents and carers, maintaining regular and meaningful communication to ensure families remain fully informed about their child's experiences, progress and well-being. The childminder consistently goes above and beyond to support children and their families. She organises social events that foster a strong sense of community and provides tailored support bags to help families navigate important milestones, such as toilet training and starting school. These thoughtfully designed resources include practical guidance, storybooks, reward materials and signposting to additional support. Parents speak exceptionally highly of the service and value the nurturing, homely environment she provides. They express complete confidence in the care their children receive and report that their children are extremely happy, settled and thriving. The childminder actively promotes children's sense of

belonging through regular engagement with the local community and maintains strong partnerships with external professionals and agencies. She uses these relationships effectively to enhance practice and ensure children and families benefit from the highest levels of care, support and guidance.

Areas identified for improvement

Where we identify **Areas for Improvement** but we have not found outcomes for people to be at immediate or significant risk, we discuss these with the provider. We expect the provider to take action and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

Where we find outcomes for people **require significant improvement** and/or there is risk to people's well-being we identify areas for **Priority Action**. In these circumstances we issue a Priority Action Notice(s) to the Provider, and they must take immediate steps to make improvements. We will inspect again within six months to check improvements have been made and outcomes for people have improved.

CIW has no areas for improvement identified following this inspection.

CIW has not issued any Priority action notices following this inspection.

National Minimum Standards

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.

Standard	Recommendation(s)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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