



Childcare Inspection Report on

Alaw Williams

Pwllheli

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

09/08/2019

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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

Description of the service

Alaw Williams is a registered childminder and operates her service from her family home, located in Botwnnog, Llyn, Gwynedd. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 10 children under the age of 12 years. The opening hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The service operates through the medium of Welsh and is working towards providing the ‘active offer’. The service provides the child care offer.

Summary

Theme	Rating
Well-being	Good
Care and Development	Good
Environment	Good
Leadership and Management	Good

1. Overall assessment

Children are happy, active and express enthusiasm and enjoyment throughout their play and learning. The child minder has a welcoming and friendly approach to care giving and is responsive to children’s individual needs. The indoor environment is clean and facilities are suitable for the age ranges of children cared for. The outdoor environment is spacious and offers children a wide range of different play and learning experiences. The child minder manages the service successfully.

2. Improvements

Since the last inspection the child minder has been awarded a local authority grant and purchased new toys and equipment to enrich children’s play and learning experiences. The child minder has also successfully achieved a Level 3 child care qualification developing her knowledge and practice in child care learning and development.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have made the following recommendations in relation to keeping records, reviewing policies and procedures and familiarising herself with recent Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children are confident communicators and are encouraged to speak and express themselves. They are settled and cope well with separation from their parents on arrival. Children interact positively with their friends and are learning to take turns and share. They are actively engaged during their play and learning and developing their independence well.

Our findings

Children spoke and expressed themselves with confidence. For instance, during lunch time they were animated, telling us about which local farm had produced the new potatoes they were eating and spoke kindly about the local farmer. Children's wishes and requests were responded to positively by the child minder. For example, children asked if the child minder could help them to put a nappy on a baby doll and laughed when they saw it was too big. A younger child made a request for a piggy back, the child smiled happily as they were lifted up by the child minder to be carried on her back. Children knew their requests would be listened to and this made them feel content.

Children felt valued and were confident their feelings would be taken into consideration. For instance, when a child told the child minder they did not want snack because they had a later breakfast than usual, their wishes were respected and they were given a choice of drink and asked what they would like to play with instead. This made the child feel happy

Children were familiar with the daily routine which gave them a sense of security. For example, when getting themselves ready to go out for a summer's day walk, they knew to put on their sun cream and their sun hats. Older children told us the rules of using mobile phones and understood the reasons for limited use.

Children were polite and generally used good manners without being prompted. Older children co-operated well with their younger friends helping them to understand the rules of a table top game. This resulted in their younger friends growing in confidence to be able to join in with the game and have fun all together. Children helped one another positively, for example a child guided their friend when reversing their trike carefully around the outdoor plant pots. Another child shared their water pistol and showed their friend how to use it.

Children had many opportunities to initiate their own play and influence their activities because there was a good balance of child-led and child minder-led activities. For example, children were learning to use a variety of cooking utensils to prepare food, they used knives safely to chop fruit and used weighing equipment to bake.

Children encouraged one another to use and speak as much Welsh as they could and helped one another to learn new words and phrases. During outdoor play children were developing their imaginary play and practising to use their senses effectively, for example,

two children were imagining being the best footballers from their favourite teams and enjoyed commentating on how the match was going.

Children were curious as they experienced the wonders of the natural world enthusiastically. For example, on their walk, a younger child became excited as they pointed and told the child minder they could see a rabbit by the tree. They explored the woodland area as they walked up to the top field; they touched the wild flowers, picked up stones and walked through the long grass actively searching for habitat.

Children were developing their independence effectively. For example, they were happy and content to play on their own. We saw children running around the field freely enjoying the warm breeze on their faces. Other children practiced their handstands or organised their own games of role play activities with initiative. They were confident to put on their own shoes and accessed the toilet and hand washing facilities with limited support.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

The child minder is committed and has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She manages interactions positively and ensures the daily routine provides children with stability and security. The child minder plans and organises interesting play activities and takes account of children's preferences and abilities to meet their individual needs in a timely manner.

Our findings

The child minder promoted healthy practices effectively, for example, she provided healthy meals and snacks. Fresh drinking water was made readily available throughout the session to make sure children remained hydrated. The child minder also encouraged children to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. She had a current paediatric first aid certificate which enabled her to appropriately administer emergency first aid or deal with medical issues that may arise. Fire drills were recorded and conducted at suitable intervals.

The child minder's safeguarding training was current and she was confident about the safeguarding procedures to take if she had any concerns about a child in her care. A record of children's accident and incidents were kept and these were signed consistently by both child minder and parent. She supervised children well during indoor and outdoor activities and encouraged them to develop their physical skills actively in the fresh air.

The child minder celebrated appropriate interactions with positive language and managed unwanted interactions with patience and a gentle voice. The child minder modelled good behaviour herself and promoted good manners, for example, we heard children being encouraged to be polite throughout the day.

The child minder knew children well and responded to their individual needs positively. For example, she wiped children's noses in a timely manner and hugged them when they wanted reassurance or when they were tired. The child minder planned activities on a monthly and seasonal basis. Activities included making a daffodil wreath to celebrate St. David's day and baking cakes for Welsh children's character, Sali Mali's 50th birthday party. She had organised some learning corners based on the principles of the foundation phase to encourage children to follow their interests. She tracked children's progress and recorded these observations to share with parents and plan for activities.

The child minder worked effectively with parents and provided good care and stimulating learning experiences for children with additional needs. However, individual care plans were not recorded in children's individual records to highlight the consistency in the care being provided. The child minder supported children positively to name the letters of their name and celebrated these achievements with enthusiasm which made children feel good about themselves. Welsh language was promoted consistently throughout the day with the

child minder supporting those children less confident to develop their language skills effectively.

3. Environment

Good

Summary

The child minder ensures children are cared for in a clean and secure environment. There is ample space and facilities to meet the needs of children. There is a wide range of good quality toys and resources appropriate for the age and needs of children cared for.

Our findings

The child minder ensured children were cared for in a clean and safe environment. She had a suitable system to manage access to the premises and visitors were recorded. The child minder had ensured unnecessary risk to children had been identified and as far as possible eliminated. She had also undertaken training in January 2019 to develop her knowledge about assessing risk. The child minder had completed the infection control audit tool but had not inserted the most recent review date to make sure it was up to date. The child minder was awarded a food hygiene rating of 5 (very good) from the food standards agency in March 2018. The child minder had made sure there were good systems in place to ensure regular maintenance and safety and the public liability insurance was up to date.

There was ample space and facilities to meet the needs of children. The indoor play areas were welcoming, friendly and promoted children's independence well. Toilet and hand washing facilities were clean. The child minder had supplied anti-bacterial hand wash, paper towels or individual towels / face cloths dependant on the child's preference on how they wanted to dry their hands.

The child minder ensured the play areas provided a wide range of play opportunities, for example, the conservatory play room was used well and consisted of a variety of toys and resources with suitable areas for children to rest. The dining room was used for meal times and to facilitate craft, baking and table top activities effectively.

There was a wide variety of outdoor areas for children to gain positive play experiences, for example, in the enclosed garden play area children were able to access pedal vehicles, mark making, throwing and catching equipment, sensory play in the mud kitchen and climbing apparatus. There were also enriched opportunities for children to walk and explore the woodland area and play in the extensive farm land fields being supported throughout by the child minder to take positive risks.

Toys, resources and furniture were of good quality and suitable for the age ranges of children being cared for. The child minder was successful in gaining funding for resources from the local authority and with the contribution of children's comments purchased a new outdoor sand pit, slide, tractor, swing ball, games and books.

The child minder had displayed books attractively in the reading corner to encourage children to read them. There was a balance of natural based resources against plastic to help children to practise using their senses. For instance, a child showed me how they

threaded with a variety of wooden beads and another child was excited about making flower petal soup in the mud kitchen. The child minder had made sure there were some resources which reflected our wider society helping to raise children's awareness of the world around them positively.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The child minder manages the service successfully. She has a system in place to evaluate the service effectively. The child minder manages resources well. Partnerships with parents and engagement with the community is positive creating improved outcomes for children.

Our findings

The child minder maintains and shares an up to date statement of purpose and informative welcome pack for parents capturing a true reflection of what is offered at the service. Policies and procedures are in place and these are implemented consistently but the date of the latest review is not inserted. The child minder has a sound understanding of her responsibilities to promote the Welsh language and demonstrates she is working towards providing the 'active offer'.

The child minder has reviewed the quality of care effectively and drawn on first hand information, comments and views of all those using the service to highlight what she does well and what requires improvement. The child minder has identified she would like to improve her organisational and administrative skills and create a number of defined outdoor areas for children to enable them to grow their own flowers and vegetables.

The child minder ensured enhanced criminal record checks are current for herself and those living at the premises. We inspected two children's individual records and these contained the required information. The child minder recorded children's attendance but had not included her own children in the register to capture a true reflection of all children present on the premises. The child minder is actively developing professionally and has recently gained a Level 3 diploma for childcare learning and development and has completed additional training to develop her knowledge about risk assessments, raising boys attainment levels and autism.

We spoke to parents who were positive about the care being provided and told us their children were happy and settled. The child minder is actively engaged in the community and attends local parent and toddler groups to develop children's social skills. Photographs of children showed them participating in various activities at the seaside, going for walks searching for wildlife and attending local theatre shows helping towards enriching children's experiences.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

The child minder should consider:

- Recording herself and her own children's attendance on the daily registers as to ensure she captures a true reflection of who is in attendance on each day,
- include information on the support and approaches used to meet the individual needs of children with additional needs in their individual record,
- insert the most recent review date on policies and procedures to ensure they are up to date and
- familiarise themselves with the most recent Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance for childcare providers.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a partly announced inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections.

One inspector visited the service on Friday 09 August 2019 from 8:40 am-1:00 pm and from 1:30 pm-3:30 pm:

We,

- inspected a sample of documentation and policies;
- observed practice;
- inspected the areas used, toys and resources;
- spoke to the child minder, children, three parents and
- provided feedback to the child minder on the day.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

www.careinspectorate.wales

7. About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Alaw Williams
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	Under 12 years
Opening hours	Monday to Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm (Dates of any holidays will be confirmed with parents).
Operating Language of the service	Both
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	26 August 2016
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	09 August 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This is a service, which is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service.
Additional Information:	
The service provides the child care offer.	

Date Published 19/09/2019