



Childcare Inspection Report on

Emma Lanham

Llanelli



Date Inspection Completed

19/06/2019

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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

Emma Lanham operates a child minding service from her home in Llanelli. She is registered to care for a maximum of ten children. English is the main language of the service with basic Welsh used in play and learning activities. The child minder does not provide the 'Active offer' of the Welsh language.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children are happy, settled and content. They experience positive interactions from the child minder. The child minder actively promotes their play and development. Children are cared for in an environment, which is well set out for childcare and is clean, secure and stimulating to them. A good range of toys and resources are appropriate to their age. The premises are safe and secure. Documents and all records are well recorded and maintained confidentially. The child minder has a good relationship with parents and other local child minders.

2. Improvements

None noted since the last inspection

3. Requirements and recommendations

We made two recommendations under the care and development theme, information on these is contained within the report, and more detail provided at the end.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children have a strong voice and feel happy and safe at the child minder's home. They interact well with each other and the child minder. They enjoy their play and learning and have many opportunities to develop their independence.

Our findings

Children had free choice in their play during the inspection and chose their activities and resources such as role-play in the kitchen area, construction blocks and musical toys. They moved freely between the rooms designated for play. We heard children ask for their drink bottles and we saw them sit in the high chair to eat their lunch independently. Children were happy and settled and they were confident to talk to each other and the child minder about what they wanted to play with. Behaviour was mostly good and children responded well to the child minder when she pointed out unacceptable behaviour. Children interacted well with each other and mostly cooperated well and were learning to share and take turns. For example, they took turns on the play gym in the garden and waited for each other to have a turn coming down the slide. They cooperated over which car they would play with in the garden although initially they both wanted the same one. They were beginning to understand they had to follow rules and take turns. Children were well mannered and polite, saying please and thank you with some prompting from the child minder.

Children were busy and actively involved in activities they had chosen. They enjoyed their play and were encouraged to follow their interests as they had free access to a wide range of resources. Children showed excitement in what they were playing, for example, they wanted us to pretend to be the customers at the café and shop set up in the living room, bringing us tea and cakes; they were immersed in their role-play in both the café, shop and play kitchen.

Children were learning to respond positively to rules, listening when the child minder explained to them about playing safely on the toys in the garden and waiting at the door until she had checked the garden for safety. Children were learning to develop their independence, getting their shoes when going outside to play and fetching their drinks from the playroom. We heard them ask for assistance when they needed help with setting up a game and saw many opportunities to encourage their independence. They benefit from a well-planned programme of activities that keep them occupied, engaged and which stimulates learning.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

The child minder has positive practice and routines that ensure children are kept safe. She is a good role model who supports and teaches children how to behave appropriately. The child minder provides a wide range of opportunities to ensure children learn and grow.

Our findings

The child minder implements positive practices to keep children safe. She has completed safeguarding training and is clear on any actions she would take if she had concerns around a child's safety. However, she was unaware of the 'Prevent Strategy' that aims to spot signs of potential radicalisation in children. She kept registers of children present; this included the children's age demonstrating her awareness of ensuring the correct numbers and age ratio. She kept a close eye on children who were sleeping. The child minder had an emergency evacuation plan, which she discussed with us as part of the inspection, and she carried out monthly recorded fire drills with the children. She supported children to be healthy by ensuring effective hygiene practices, such as thorough hand washing after using the bathroom and prior to meals. The child minder ensured that children drank regularly and topped up their water bottles to ensure they remained well hydrated. She offered regular opportunities for children to be active, such as playing in the garden, the local parks and beaches. The child minder was consistent in managing interactions and was calm and reassuring with the children even when she had to intervene in minor disputes. She talked calmly to them about expected behaviour, being kind to each other and taking turns. She was involved in children's play, sitting on the floor of the playroom helping one child to build a model and encouraging another child to find the appropriate coloured animal and place in the right coloured dish. She also involved herself in role-play in the shop and café, which the children clearly enjoyed. She praised children when they were successful at a task. Discussion with the children and a parent, our observations and the planning records showed she planned a wide range of opportunities and activities to extend the children's learning and play. This included significant time out of the home, meeting other child minders and attending playgroups, children's centre, library, beaches and park. The child minder knew the children well. She provided children with resources and activities that were appropriate to their age, supported their learning and development and kept them interested. For example, she helped them to set up the shop and café and write the prices of cakes and tea on the chalkboard and we all joined in with the role-play. Where possible the child minder promotes the Welsh language through colours, numbers and songs, we heard many instances of this, but she is unable to provide the 'Welsh Language Active offer'. The child minder kept development records of all pre-school children. They were comprehensive and well recorded and followed the early years outcomes. A parent told us that they were grateful of to be informed of developmental milestones that their child reached.

3. Environment

Good

Summary

The environment is safe and secure with relevant checks completed and risks managed well. The child minder provides a well maintained homely and child friendly environment suitable for a range of play. Resources are plentiful and of good quality.

Our findings

The home was secure with both front and rear doors locked. Relevant checks such as gas safety certificates had been undertaken. There were comprehensive risk assessments on all areas of the home and activities undertaken in and out of the home. However, there was no evidence to confirm that these were reviewed regularly. The child minder was very safety conscious. For example, on her return from the school run the child minder had noted a specific safety concern in the street and had phoned both the police and council to alert them to it. She was very aware of the potential risk this could have caused to the children she cares for. The environment was well maintained and hazards were eliminated or managed well. For example, there were safety gates at the bottom and top of the stairs as well as across the kitchen door. Resources with small parts that might pose a choking hazard were kept out of reach of younger children. The environment was spacious and there were designated play areas with toys and resources mostly stored at child height. The playroom was set out with areas for learning and play and the living room also had some role-play areas set up. There were comfortable sofas where children rested as they enjoyed a short television programme after lunch. Infants slept in either a travel cot or buggies dependent on their preference. Older children who needed a sleep could do so on the comfortable sofas in the living room. The garden at the rear of the property had a gated paved area set up for play. The child minder checked the garden each morning to ensure it was clean as they had a family dog. There was a large playhouse, climbing frame and slide, tuff tray for messy play and bikes, scooters, Little Tykes cars as well as balls and bats. The storage shed outside meant outdoor toys were clean and well maintained. The children thoroughly enjoyed playing outdoors during the inspection.

Toys are stored in boxes in low storage units in all playrooms and on shelving. Children can access these themselves but the child minder told us that she also rotates toys at low level to maintain children's interest. Additional equipment such as age appropriate car seats, high chairs, buggies, and child-sized furniture complimented the service provision.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The child minder manages her service well and ensures documentation is up to date and well organised. She takes the views of parents and children into account when evaluating her service. The child minder's core training is up to date and she attends a variety of developmental training in order to improve her practice. She shares children's progress with parents regularly.

Our findings

The statement of purpose reflected that the child minder had a clear vision for her service; this allowed parents to make an informed choice about the care on offer. Policies and procedures, child records, registers and other documentation was up to date and were very well organised. All policies had been dated showing that they were subject to regular review and reflected her current practice. The child minder was fully aware of regulations and national minimum standards and ensured that these were met. The child minder understood the benefit of self-evaluation in order to drive improvements to her service. We saw the current report and it was comprehensive and identified improvements and reflected parents and children's views. Comments from parents included *'my child loves coming to Emma's and has developed a strong friendship with her family'* and *'Emma always goes above and beyond her duty to care for my child and to make sure they are safe and happy'*.

The child minder had ensured all of her core training was up to date including first aid and safeguarding. She also completed training that helped her personal development and gave her skills that allowed her to support children's individual needs. A recent training event she had attended was to enable her to discuss potential developmental delays with parents.

The child minder had ensured that her Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate was up to date and that household members over the age of 16 had current checks. The child minder had positive relationships with parents, clearly evidenced in the quality of care questionnaires and during the conversation we had with a parent. The child minder shares photographs of children via WhatsApp or on the child minder's Facebook group. Parents have given consent for this. She kept in regular contact with them through social media, texts and WhatsApp; this allowed her to share information on children's progress and reassure parents that their child was happy and enjoying the activities. The child minder has established effective partnerships with other local child minders and recently took part in the Peppa Pig Muddy Puddle event.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non-compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We recommended that the child minder:

- be aware of her responsibilities under the 'Prevent duty' and
- record all risk assessments reviews.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection as part of our schedule. It was semi announced to ensure the availability of the child minder. One inspector visited the service on 19 June 2019 between the hours of 10am and 1.25pm. There were two children present during the inspection.

- we had discussions with the child minder about her service;
- we observed the children and the care which they received;
- we talked to the children present;
- we spoke to a parent dropping off their child;
- we looked at a wide range of records including registers, children's records, policies and procedures, safety records, and the statement of purpose ;
- we inspected the premises and
- we gave verbal feedback at the end of the inspection.

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	Emma Lanham
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	0 -12 years
Opening hours	8am – 6pm Monday to Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	31 August 2016
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	19 June 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 service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of children who use or intend to use their service. We recommend that the child minder considers Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words' strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care
Additional Information:	
The child minder has registered to provide the 30-hour childcare offer.	

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