

Childcare Inspection Report on

Claire Wearing

Cwmbran



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Description of the service

The child minder is registered with CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) to provide home based childcare for up to six children under 12 years. She operates her service from her home in a residential area of Cwmbran. Child minding takes place on the ground floor. This is a mainly English language service with some use of Welsh.

Summary of our findings

1. Overall assessment

Children are cared for by an experienced and motivated child minder who is keen to promote their welfare and help them thrive. She has a caring and nurturing approach and provides warm, sensitive and responsive care with lots of individual attention. This helps children feel secure and settled, and promotes their well-being, learning and development. They are happy and confident to follow their own interests. They enjoy a good variety of activities both at the child minder's home and out in the community, many of which are outdoors to promote their love of the outside. The child minder ensures her home is safe and welcoming, and provides a good environment for home based childcare. The service is managed well. Comprehensive policies and procedures are implemented successfully to ensure children are safe and their health is promoted. The child minder works flexibly with parents and provides a professional and reliable service.

2. Improvements

The child minder has renewed some equipment and resources and refreshed mandatory training.

3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no non compliance issues identified at this inspection.

To develop the service and improve outcomes for children we made some recommendations. These are discussed in the body of the report and listed towards the end.

1. Well-being

Summary

Children's well-being is central to this service. They have developed very close relationships with the child minder so they are able to feel secure, settled and confident. Their preferences and ways of communicating are well understood so their needs are responded to promptly and sensitively. They are able to make their own choices about their play and are very well supported to do this because the child minder knows them very well.

Our findings

1.1 To what extent do children have a voice?

Children can make choices and their attempts to communicate are valued. The child minder listens attentively to the children and, as she knows them very well, their ways of expressing their needs are well understood and responded to sensitively. For example, the child minder recognised they were getting tired and helped them off to sleep. They could direct their own play, choosing their resources and where they played. The child minder followed their lead and facilitated their play.

Children are listened to and the child minder is very responsive to their needs which gives them confidence and helps them feel secure.

1.2 To what extent do children feel safe, happy and valued?

Children are relaxed and settled with the child minder. They have forged strong bonds of attachment with her and are very happy in her care. They enjoy lots of individual attention, cuddles and close contact. When they were tired, they sought extra support and went off to sleep easily, showing they felt secure and safe. Their needs are responded to promptly and they receive supportive and unhurried care. Parents commented in their questionnaires on how happy and settled their children are. One said "*Sometimes so settled [they don't] want to leave!*"

Children are valued, and have formed very positive relationships with the child minder.

1.3 To what extent do children enjoy their play and learning?

Children enjoy a very good variety of different activities both at the child minder's home and in the local community. They can access their play resources easily and the child minder understands their preferences and follows their interests. For example, we could see they had their favourite books which they loved reading with the child minder, and a favourite activity was to count the ducks and sheep in the field behind the house together. Photographs showed children enjoying activities out and about at Forest Schools and parks. The child minder told us she regularly takes the children to

the local library for Rhyme Time and for river walks, which she knows the children enjoy. Parents' questionnaires show their children enjoy their play, including "*trips to the park and being outdoors*", "*Rhyme Time and the ducks*".

Children enjoy their play and learning through a good range of age appropriate play opportunities.

1.4 How well do children develop, learn and become independent?

Children are encouraged to develop their independence in line with their age and stage of development. This gives them confidence and promotes their self-esteem. For example, the very young children are learning to feed themselves; pre-school children are encouraged to use the bathroom independently and put on their own shoes and coats. The child minder provides good levels of support, tailored to the needs of each individual child. She knows the children very well and provides a good range of activities, which together with her positive interactions with them, are helping them to develop a range of skills.

Children are well supported to develop and become independent.

2. Care and Development

Summary

The child minder ensures she knows the children very well. She gives very attentive, nurturing and personal care so they are able to build a strong bond with her. The child minder provides a good range of different activities that she knows meet their interests and supports their development. She promotes a healthy lifestyle and implements suitable systems to keep them safe.

Our findings

2.1 How well does the child minder keep children safe and healthy?

Overall, the child minder is aware of her role in promoting children's safety and health. In the main, she is clear about her responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children because she has undertaken child protection and safeguarding training on a regular basis. This has included attend a Level 3 multi-disciplinary training and awareness workshop. A procedure is in place for her to follow if she had concerns about any child's welfare, which includes information regarding Prevent Duty. This is a Government strategy to help protect children from radicalisation. The child minder agreed to seek out training in relation to this new strategy so that she is confident she would be able to identify children at risk.

Overall, the child minder follows appropriate procedures to protect children's health in relation to good hygiene practices; she has attended training in food hygiene, supports children to wash their hands at appropriate times, and follows the advice of Environmental Health in relation to good food hygiene. We discussed using the Infection Control Audit Tool for Early Years Settings to evidence best practice and ensure nappy changing procedures are suitable, as these do not currently follow best practice. The child minder provides meals, snacks and drinks for children. She seeks information about children's health and dietary needs, and supports children who have specific allergies very well. We discussed recording the allergens in the food provided in line with the relevant Food Information (Wales) Regulations.

The child minder follows appropriate procedures for administering medication. Paediatric first aid is up to date and the child minder responds appropriately to minor accidents.

The child minder encourages children to enjoy lots of outdoor play. She regularly takes children to a local Forest School, parks and river walks, and they can easily access an enclosed back garden, although the child minder advised us that this tends to be used more in the summer as it gets very boggy in the winter months. One parent commented they like that their child "*gets out in the fresh air as often as possible*". Fire drills are practised with the children regularly so they know what to do if they needed to leave the house quickly.

Overall, the child minder takes effective steps to ensure the safety and health of the children.

2.2 How well does the child minder manage interactions?

The child minder has a calm and relaxed manner with the children. She successfully implements a detailed behaviour management policy to promote positive behaviour through age-appropriate strategies. She speaks gently and clearly with the children and gives them lots of individual attention. By giving praise, encouragement, providing good activities that meet the children's interests, and encouraging the children to negotiate, the child minder is able to promote good social skills. She mainly uses distraction and redirection to dispel any unwanted behaviour. The atmosphere is very happy and relaxed.

The child minder helps children develop their social skills successfully.

2.3 How well does the child minder promote children's play, learning and development and meet their individual needs?

The child minder plans and provides a good range of activities and gives supportive care to promote children's development. She follows the children's lead and interests and, as she knows them well, is able to extend their play through gentle support, chatting naturally with them using appropriate language to help them develop their learning. For example, we could see how the children's language was developing as a result of the time the child minder spends with them enjoying their favourite books. She provides very nurturing and responsive care and follows children's individual routines, which promotes their sense of well-being and allows them to build a strong relationship with her. The child minder plans activities at both home and in the local community, so children can enjoy a good range of activities to promote their development. Parents' questionnaires show they feel there is "*a great variety of different activities*". However, children's progress, and how the activities provided promote their next steps in their learning are not recorded.

The child minder promotes children's development well and has the skills and knowledge to meet their individual needs.

3. Environment

Summary

The child minder's home is well maintained, spacious and welcoming. Children benefit from a secure and homely environment where they can play safely and comfortably. There is a good range of high quality, appropriate play resources, which meet the children's interests and promote their development.

Our findings

3.1 How well does the child minder ensure the safety of the environment?

The child minder ensures children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. She is proactive in identifying hazards and puts appropriate steps in place to mitigate risks. There are detailed written risk assessments for all aspects of the service, which are reviewed at least annually or as and when changes are needed. Records show general maintenance is carried out, including the gas boiler check, which indicate the house is safe.

The child minder implements robust measures to ensure her home is safe.

3.2 How well does the child minder ensure the suitability of the environment?

The child minder's home is spacious, light and welcoming. Children use the ground floor, where there is a large lounge, hallway and kitchen/dining room, and children can move easily and freely between these areas. An additional room means children can sleep undisturbed. There is a downstairs washroom, which means children can tend to their own personal needs independently, and the child minder can provide support if needed, while still be able to supervise other children. Large patio doors lead onto the garden from both the living room and kitchen, so children can access the outdoors easily or enjoy looking outside.

The child minder ensures her home is welcoming and suits the needs of the children in her care.

3.3 How well does the child minder ensure the quality of resources and equipment?

The child minder ensures that children have access to a good range of resources and equipment that are of high quality and suitable to their age and stage of development. These are regularly rotated to maintain children's interest. The living room furniture allows children to relax and sit comfortably, and the large table, chairs and highchairs in the kitchen mean children can enjoy meals and messy play activities together.

The child minder provides children with good quality resources, which meet their needs and interests.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

Parents and children benefit from a well run and suitably managed setting. The child minder is motivated and keen to provide a service that benefits the children in her care. Paperwork is well organised and parents can be clear about how the service operates. The child minder takes suitable steps to ensure they are kept informed about their child's progress, achievements and daily activities.

Our findings

4.1 How effective is leadership?

The child minder has a good understanding of her role and the responsibilities relating to running her child care business in line with the relevant regulations and standards. There is a statement of purpose and comprehensive policies and procedures, which provide parents with good information regarding the service. Parents receive copies of these policies. A well-organised file allows parents to view documents such as the child minder's training, insurance details, and previous CIW reports. Completed contracts are in place and specific permission is sought from parents for a variety of situations including seeking emergency medical treatment and taking photographs. There are some plans to develop the service and ensure for example, mandatory training is undertaken and resources are updated and replaced. All required records are maintained in line with the NMS.

The child minder runs her service in an organised manner.

4.2 How effective is self evaluation and planning for improvement?

The child minder is keen to provide a very good service. She undertakes annual reviews of the quality of her service, and provides an informative and detailed written report. This outlines how the service operates, what is working well, and identifies some areas for improvement. Children and parents are involved in the review and any comments or suggestions made are included in the report, with points for improvement if necessary. We suggested this review is shared with parents so they can see how their views are influencing the development of the service. The child minder welcomes the views of other professionals such as Environmental Health; we suggested any professional views are also included in the annual report together with any identified actions to develop the service. There is a complaint procedure in place so parents know the process for raising concerns.

The child minder reviews her service effectively and plans improvements to benefit children and parents.

4.3 How effective is the management of practitioners, staff and other resources?

The child minder is suitably qualified, and has been providing her service for eight years. Registers of attendance record the actual hours children are present and show the child minder operates in line with the conditions of her registration. This allows her to care for a maximum of six children. The childminder is flexible as is practically possible to accommodate parents' changing childcare needs and strives to provide a reliable service. There are suitable contingency plans in place in the event of an emergency, which are shared with parents. The child minder and all adults living in the home over the age of 16 years have current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to confirm their suitability.

The child minder has good systems in place to ensure a safe and reliable service to parents.

4.4 How effective are partnerships?

The child minder strives to work closely with parents to promote their child's well-being. She operates a settling in procedure to ensure that children settle at their own pace. Each child's needs and preferences are understood before they start at the service and records of each child's personal details, such as health needs and allergies are kept so the appropriate care may be given. There are a number of systems in place to ensure good communication with parents. These include photographs and daily verbal exchange about their child's day and the activities they have enjoyed. Although a general record of daily activities and food eaten is kept, we suggested the child minder also maintains individual records for the children aged under two years detailing their daily care needs and routines.

The child minder has established good relationships with parents to promote their child's well-being and development.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Record allergens in the food provided;
- review the Public Health Wales Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control;
- include the views of professionals in the quality of care review report, together with any improvements identified and share the report with parents;
- maintain records of observations of children's activities and their identified next steps, so parents can see clearly how the activities provided will help their child progress and
- maintain individual records of the daily routines and care needs of children under two years of age.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection looking at all aspects of the service, undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. We used the following methods to gather evidence for this report:

- We looked at what we already knew about the service;
- the inspection was carried out by one inspector over one day;
- we observed activities and interactions between the child minder and children present;
- we reviewed comments from parents in their questionnaires for the child minder and their comments in their cards of appreciation;
- we looked at a range of records and documents including contracts, the statement of purpose, children's records, the child minder's daily diary which included records of attendance, and policies and procedures;
- we viewed the parts of the premises used for child minding and looked at the safety measures in place;
- we spoke with the child minder about how she runs the service and her plans for the future and
- our findings were fed back to the child minder following 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	Claire Wearing
Registered maximum number of places	6
Age range of children	Birth up to 12 years
Opening hours	8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, although the child minder is flexible
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	28 May 2015
Dates of this inspection visit	18 December 2018
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 that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service. We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's More 'Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care'.
Additional Information: None	

No noncompliance records found in Open status.