



Childcare Inspection Report on

Maria Lewis

Aberdare



Date Inspection Completed

13/05/2019

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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

Maria Lewis is registered with CIW to care for up to twelve children at her home in Abercwmboi, Rhondda. The child minder provides care for children between the ages of 0 – 12 years and operates Monday to Friday to Friday between 7.00am and 6pm. The service is provided through the medium of English with some incidental Welsh.

Summary

Theme	Rating
<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

1. Overall assessment

Children who are cared for by the child minder are happy and well settled. They interact well with each other and can be assured their voices are heard. The child minder has a good understanding of the regulations and the national minimum standards and evidently enjoys her role. She meets children's individual needs promptly and ensures they are safe at all times. Parents are very happy with the care provided.

2. Improvements

Since previous inspection, the child minder has updated all mandatory training of First Aid, Food Hygiene and Child protection. In addition to this, the child minder has completed the Prevent Duty online course and updated her statement of purpose.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We made some recommendations in relation to care and development and these can be found at the back of the report

1. Well-being

Summary

Children have a good voice and feel safe and happy at this service. They interact well with each other and are curious and confident. Children have a good relationship with the child minder and are able to make choices. They enjoy their play and learning and have opportunities to develop their independence

Our findings

Children are happy and settled at the service. Children have a strong voice and are able to choose where they play and with what, for example children asked to play certain games and colouring and did so. Younger children were able to express themselves and knew their voice would be heard. For example, a toddler becoming grizzly and restless because he was tired and ready for his nap. Older children confidently called the child minder when they wanted her attention and knew they would be listened to. Children enjoyed choosing toys from the toy shelves and boxes. Older children told us they particularly enjoyed choosing resources from the outside play area.

We saw that children had a good relationship with the child minder, they were confident and relaxed with her. We heard older children chat about their school day. All children interacted well, and older children cuddled toddlers gently when they were restless and tired. Children used manners at all times and we heard children say 'please' and 'thank you'. Children happily chatted to us and were curious about why we were there. They smiled when they received praise for completing activities. We saw children reluctant to leave with parents and carers when they came to collect them.

Children chuckled and giggled when playing with the 'duck' and 'Pop up Pirate' game that they had requested. Children also enjoyed playing play dough indoors, the sand and water tray and role-play outdoors.

Older children used the toilet independently and younger children fed themselves dinner and snack time. Toddlers were encouraged to be independent but also supported by the child minder. Children were encouraged to pour their own drinks using small plastic jugs. Older children listened well to road safety instruction when walking to and from school runs and stayed close to the child minder.

2. Care and Development

Summary

The child minder is effective at keeping children safe and healthy. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures. She manages children's interactions in a kind and caring manner and promotes their learning and development sufficiently, providing a good range of activities for them.

Our findings

The child minder was confident with the procedure to follow in relation to safeguarding. She was fully aware of her duties and responsibilities to report concerns, was familiar with the radicalisation, and prevent duty having completed the training. The child minder told us that she was aware of the children's needs such as their allergies and dietary needs. She ensured daily walks as she often did both school drop off and pick up by foot or took the children for walks to nearby woodlands and local park. The child minder provided healthy meals and snacks. We saw children have a lunch of pasta with cheese and ham accompanied by cherry tomatoes, sweetcorn and cucumber with an orange for dessert. Teatime was crackers with pate and cucumber with apple and banana. Water was available throughout the day for all children. We heard the child minder give the children safety messages to when walking to and from school such as, "walk close to me please" and "is there a car coming, check before crossing". Children's hands and faces were washed or wiped after activities, before, and after meals and snacks.

The child minder managed interactions well and interacted positively with the children, and she was calm and caring. She praised children for their positive behaviour and for showing empathy towards each other. The child minder thanked the children for saying 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder managed behaviour well and effectively in line with her behaviour policy.. For example, we heard her say "nice playing boys", "well done for letting him look at the colours in your bag". "Well done and good boy for letting him have a turn of your hat". She reminded children about appropriate behaviour such as when the children got quite loud playing a game together "Can we have indoor voices please?" The child minder constantly modelled good behaviour and always said please and thanking when talking with the children. She encouraged open discussion. An example of this was when she talked to the children about the colours and characters on one child's rucksack. She asked the children "what can you see?", "what are the colours", "no need to lift your bag up high they are just looking at the colours, let's all have a look what colours we can see. Let's show them all."

The child minder promoted children's play, learning and development well. She encouraged lots of independence encouraged the children to choose toys and resources both indoors and outdoors, to tidy up, feed themselves at lunch and snack time and pour their own drinks. The child minder provides a fun, relaxed and caring environment that aids children learning and development. The child minder ensured children slept for time instructed to by parents and we saw her wake children who needed to.

3. Environment

Summary

The child minder provides a safe, warm and homely environment. There is suitable space for children to play rest and explore. She has a good selection of resources and appropriate furniture and equipment for children.

Our findings

The environment present as clean, safe and secure. The child minder ensured that the premises was safe at all times and the front and rear was locked at all times. At collection time, parents had to be let in by the child minder. The child minder had undertaken risk assessments for all areas where children had access to, and these were reviewed regularly. In addition, daily risk assessments were also completed as well risk assessments for regular outings such as visiting the swimming pool, going by train, car and bus. Good information in relation to dealing with emergencies. Regular fire drills completed with last recorded on 10 May 2019. The heating test certificate was valid and fire drills had been regularly undertaken and recorded. The child minder had placed safety gates at the bottom of the stairs and between the kitchen and lounge. Children had access to an enclosed outdoor rear patio area. The child minder also ensured regular walks to the park and play areas.

The child minder ensured that the premises both indoors and outdoors were welcoming and child friendly. There was sufficient space and facilities to meet the children's needs and play opportunities as well as promoting quiet times and physical play. All the rooms used for the purpose of child minding are warm and suitably equipped. There was plenty of room in the main lounge for free play as well as a suitable dining area to eat food and also complete art and craft based activities and table top games. Booster seats were provided for younger children to also sit at the dining table. The layout of the premises promotes the space for children to be independent and the close proximity of the downstairs bathroom to the main lounge promoted children's independence when toileting and allowing for appropriate arm's length supervision. There was a secure section in the rear garden that provided the children with a safe and appropriate area for outdoor play.

The child minder ensured that children had access to a suitable range of toys and equipment. There was a very good range of toys and equipment form,

which the children could choose. The childminder has a storage unit in the hallway. Baskets were clearly labelled in both words and pictures of what they contain for example, Fireman Sam, textured books, Magnetix. The childminder ensures that the children have access to a good range of toys and equipment daily and child minder confirmed that all toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors are rotated on a regular basis. Older children told us they enjoyed the games and outdoor play resources available to them. Items viewed were clean and well maintained.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

The child minder is very experienced and has very good record-keeping systems in place. She loves her job and her enjoyment is evident when she is with the children in her care. She manages her business effectively and is in line with the national minimum standards and regulations. The child minder has very good partnerships with parents, other child minders, local childminding network, Flying Start and the local school.

Our findings

The child minder had a statement of purpose in place, which reflects what the service provides. However, this needed some further amendment in order to contain all required information. The child minder had a comprehensive file of policies and procedures, which were updated annually. They contained all the updated correct contact information for CIW. The child minder was organised and provided the documentation and paperwork required with ease. Visitors' logs were recorded in the daily diary and we saw children's attendance records. All accident and medication logs were recorded in a logbook and all parents had contracts in place for all children.

The child minder had a self-evaluation system in place, and the latest report was summer 2018. The review included feedback from parents and children, all of which were very positive and complimentary of the service.

The child minder had many years' experience of working with children and was fully aware of the maximum number of children that she may care for at any one time. She ensured that valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificates for all adult household members were in place. The child minder had completed all the core training such as safeguarding, first aid and food hygiene. The public liability insurance certificate was valid.

The child minder shared information about the children's time with parents and carers at collection times. She also took the opportunity to take the children by taking them to local playgroups, parent and toddler groups and soft play. The child minder has a close working relationship with the Flying Start health visitor's and co-ordinator as well as the very positive and kind. A parent questionnaire stated, '*She is fantastic. She treats my child like her own*'. The child minder told us she takes children on outings to parks, wooded area walks, and trips on the train or bus. She has good partnerships with other child minders in the area, and they meet up occasionally. She also confirmed that she strives to provide the children with socialisation Rhondda Cynon Taf Childminding Networking co-ordinator

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 provider:

- Updated the statement of purpose for the service.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was an unannounced full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections.

One inspector visited the service on 9 May 2019 but had a failed visit, as the child minder had not been available. One inspector carried out a further visit on 13 May 2019 for approximately six hours. We:

- inspected a sample of documentation and policies;
- observed practice;
- spoke to children and the child minder;
- provided detailed telephone feedback to the child minder on 16 May 2019.

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	Maria Lewis
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	From birth to under 12 years of age
Opening hours	7.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	28 May 2015
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	9 and 13 May 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service. However, incidental Welsh is used.
Additional Information:	

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