



Childcare Inspection Report on

Julia Powell

Pontypool



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Description of the service

The child minder is registered with CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) to provide care for five children under 12 years of age. She operates from her family home which is located in Sebastapol near Pontypool and her hours of operation are 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Care is provided through the medium of English with some introductory Welsh.

Summary of our findings

1. Overall assessment

Children are able to make choices, enjoy a variety of activities both in the child minder's home and out and about and are well supported by the child minder. They form positive and warm relationships with the child minder and feel at home at the service. Children generally enjoy a safe and comfortable environment.

2. Improvements

This was a focused inspection to test non compliance raised at the last inspection in August 2018. The child minder has addressed the non compliance issues raised at the last inspection and has applied for her Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) safety check and enrolled onto a Paediatric First Aid course. She has also considered the recommendations made at that inspection and improved her record keeping significantly showing a real desire to ensure that she remains compliant with regulations and has the correct paperwork in place to support the operation of her child minding service.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have made some recommendations regarding the continual development of record keeping and this is outlined at the end of this report.

1. Well-being

Summary

Overall, we found that outcomes for children are positive. Children's needs are met and they are provided with warm, responsive care in a homely environment. Children are encouraged to give their opinions and have a voice at the service. We saw that children interacted well with one another and had a good range of activities to keep them engaged.

Our findings

1.1 To what extent do children have a voice?

Children have a voice and are able to make decisions about what they want to do. The child minder plans activities but these will often change to take into account the changing needs or interests of the children. We heard plenty of examples of the child minder asking the children what they would like to do, giving options and choices. The children confidently spoke out and made their preferences known choosing what they wanted to eat for snack and what they wanted to play with. Children's feedback is continually sought and we heard very good conversations between the children and the child minder, with even new children to the setting happy and comfortable to openly express their opinions. The child minder had recently acquired new ways of consulting with children and we saw child friendly questionnaires 'two stars and a wish' so that children could express what they liked and what they felt could be improved.

The child minder actively listens to children and respects what they have to say which improves children's confidence and self esteem.

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

Children are comfortable and secure in their surroundings. There is a settling in policy which allows children new to the service time to become familiar with the home and the child minder. Both the child minder and the children present confirmed that they had gone out on 'getting to know you days' before they started at the service and that these had been a big success. We saw that the children present were happy and relaxed. They were chatting happily with one another and enjoyed the range of play opportunities available to them. We saw that the child minder spoke to the children kindly and with respect which gives children a sense of self worth.

Children are safe and happy in an environment where their well-being is promoted.

1.3 How well do children interact?

Children are clear about the rules and boundaries within the setting and interact well with their peers. They enjoyed chatting together after school and looked comfortable with new children at the service, who they included in conversation and made them feel at home. The children listened to the child minder and responded appropriately even when they disagreed with her. The atmosphere remained relaxed and calm throughout the inspection.

Children are learning to consider the needs of others which will promote their ability to manage social situations.

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

Children benefit from a range of play and learning experiences which they find interesting. For example, there are regular opportunities for children to experience trips to parks and local shops giving them a range of social experiences outside of the home environment. They were happy to relax and unwind after school and happily either sat on the sofa chatting with their friends or went outside to the back garden to play. There are lots of board games and craft materials and children told us that they never feel bored.

Children have opportunities to promote their all round development through activities appropriate to their age and stage of development.

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

Children are learning important social skills in line with their age and stage of development and are provided with the support to do this. We saw that children were encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating and the child minder said she prompted all children to do this. Children could easily access toys and resources and we saw them choose and get what they wanted to play with. Children were encouraged to tidy up after themselves.

Children have a range of experiences to promote their independence and develop their self help skills.

2. Care and Development

Summary

This was a focused inspection and looked at the well-being of children and leadership and management of the service. Care and development will be looked at in more detail at the next inspection. However, the child minder knows the children well, provides warm, responsive care, manages children's behaviours well and provides opportunities to children to learn and develop. We did find that whilst most permissions had been sought, permissions to seek emergency medical treatment were not on all children's files and children's profiles would benefit from further information.

3. Environment

Summary

This was a focused inspection and looked at the well-being of children and leadership and management of the service. Environment will be looked at in more detail at the next inspection. However, the child minder had addressed recommendations from the previous inspection and updated risk assessments and implemented new hand drying procedures so that each child has their own towel to prevent cross contamination.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

There have been significant improvements to the management of the service and the child minder is now compliant with regulations. All documentation we requested was made available to us and the child minder had established better systems regarding daily record keeping and monitoring of her service.

Our findings

4.1 How effective is leadership?

Leadership of the service has improved and overall children and their families benefit from a sufficiently organised service. We have made some further recommendations that would strengthen the management of the service and the child minder was very motivated to continue making improvements. There is a statement of purpose (SOP) and policies and procedures that are made available to parents but although these documents had been reviewed they had not been dated and needed to reference CIW rather than CSSIW. The safeguarding policy also required some further additions. Some elements of the SOP would benefit from further review. We were able to view children's contracts which were completed and shared with parents, setting out the expectations of both parties and these are reviewed annually. Daily records and children's attendance was recorded and we found that it contained all of the necessary information and that it was completed in a timely manner. The child minder has a satisfactory policies and procedures folder and had put in place a pet policy regarding her two pet dogs. We found that the child minder was open and receptive to our recommendations.

Parents who use the service can be satisfied and assured that it is run appropriately

4.2 How effective is self evaluation and planning for improvement?

The child minder is motivated to continue to improve her service. She had undertaken a quality of care review and had consulted with parents and children. She had reviewed much of her documentation, such as risk assessments and understood that this was an ongoing process. She told us that she undertakes daily visual checks of the environment to ensure it is suitable and safe for children.

The child minder is motivated to review her service so that improvements are made.

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

The child minder has implemented effective systems to manage her own professional development and ensure she is up to date with current child care practice. She has enrolled on a paediatric first aid course to update her training and has informed herself regarding her duties under 'Prevent' legislation. She has ensured that she has applied for a current DBS and discussed with us her plan to attend further safeguarding training. Public liability insurance was in place. She planned her day so that child minding sessions were concentrated on the children.

The child minder has organised herself and her resources so that children enjoy their time spent at the service.

4.4 How effective are partnerships?

The child minder is able to build and maintain good relationships with parents and children. Several of the children had been attending the service for a number of years and we were told that new children had been referred to her through recommendations from parents who had used the service. Children told us that they liked the child minder and liked attending the service. We were told that she had not received any complaints although she keeps a log book should a complaint be voiced.

The child minder values and builds good relationships with the parents and children who access her service.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Continue to review the statement of purpose to ensure it meets standard 1.2 of the National Minimum Standards (NMS);
- develop child profiles;
- ensure documentation is dated;
- ensure consent to seek emergency medical treatment has been sought;
- update safeguarding policy with procedures in the event that child minder or relative is part of child protection proceedings and
- review all policies to reference 'CIW' rather than 'CSSIW'.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a focused inspection of the service. One inspector undertook an unannounced visit on 27 September to test non compliance raised at the previous inspection in August 2018. The inspection took approximately two hours. We collated information through:

- Discussion with the child minder;
- observations of care practices, interactions between the child minder, and children and of the activities undertaken;
- a visual check of the premises;
- inspection of records available including risk assessments, policies and procedures, registers and daily records;
- information held by CIW and

- talking with children.

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

www.careinspectorate.wales

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Julia Powell
Registered maximum number of places	5
Age range of children	Under 12 years
Opening hours	7am to 6 pm Monday to Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	07 and 08 August 2018
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	27 September 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. 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:	