



Childcare Inspection Report on

Sian Jones

Hengoed



Date Inspection Completed

10/07/2019

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Description of the service

Sian Jones is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to provide care for up to six children under 12 years from her family home. Care is provided weekdays on a part time basis between 08:00am and 06:00pm by prior arrangement. Children have access to the ground floor facilities, including a playroom, lounge, garden, and also have supervised access to animals on the farm. The main language of the service is English.

Summary

1. Overall assessment

The child minder has very good relationships with children who are happy and settled in her care. Children are confident to approach her and know they will be listened to. The environment is safe and well maintained. There are a suitable range of resources easily accessible to children. Paperwork is of an adequate standard and meets the requirements of the Child Minding and Day Care Regulations (2010) Wales and National Minimum Standards.

2. Improvements

Since the last inspection, the child minder has reviewed all mandatory training to support her practice.

3. Requirements and recommendations

No areas of non compliance were identified at this inspection. We made good practice recommendations which are summarised in section 5.

1. Well-being

Summary

Children benefit from an appropriate selection of play experiences and enjoy their time at the child minders. They are content and are making firm friendships with their peers and have established very positive relationships with the child minder.

Our findings

Children have a voice at the service. They are settled in the home, are familiar with routines and comfortable in their surroundings. Children are confident to communicate because they know their opinions are respected. There are opportunities for children to follow their interests and choose the activities they take part in. We observed children making choices, for example, to play either inside or in the garden and their wishes were respected by the child minder.

Children enjoy their play and have a selection of age appropriate activities available to them, both indoors and outside. We heard the child minder chatting to children about their families and what they were doing in school, helping to give them a sense of belonging. There was lots of praise given for achievements and it was evident, through smiles and laughter that children responded well to this. We saw that children sought out affection and cuddles from the child minder, showing that they were very comfortable in her care.

Children interact well with the child minder and each other. We observed two children sitting together outside eating their snack, chatting to the child minder about their hobbies. There are regular opportunities for children to enjoy trips out to local playgroups to extend their social network and there are also outings to the local parks.

Children enjoy their time at the service. They were engaged in activities for an appropriate time, depending on their age and stage of development. There were lots of smiles and laughter. One child playing on the trampoline said to the child minder '*look at what I can do*'. They are interested and curious to learn and spend an appropriate length of time on their chosen activities which are predominately unstructured and freely chosen. The children were fully engaged in their play and never appeared bored or disinterested as resources were readily available and easily accessible. This meant that they could move from one resource to another and enjoy different activities when they were ready to do so.

Children are developing and learning independence skills in line with their age and stage of development. We saw that activities are planned to suit the age and abilities of children attending and a range of craft activities are planned for the children to enjoy. All children were respectful of toys and played with them appropriately. We saw that some children were very confident and picked out resources without the need for adult support.

2. Care and Development

Summary

The child minder meets children's needs appropriately. She has systems in place to keep children safe, and manages interactions well.

Our findings

The child minder has an understanding of her role to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder has all relevant training such as paediatric first aid and food hygiene. She implements appropriate infection control measures in terms of hand washing and intimate care practice. The child minder provides children with drinks and snacks and is registered with the Food Standards Agency. She has a written child protection policy and procedure, but it lacked detail on the procedure for reporting and recording concerns, and the procedure if an allegation is made against the child minder. We examined additional service records such as accident records and found they were maintained appropriately, and the nature of accidents recorded, were typical for the age and stage of development of the children who attend the service. There was a medication policy in place, however the policy didn't state parents must sign after medication has been given. We discussed this with the child minder who agreed the policy should be amended.

The child minder manages interactions well and understands the need to address behaviour issues in a positive manner. There is an appropriate behaviour management policy outlining the strategies to be used with children. These include distraction and positive reinforcement. We found that the child minder acted as a good role model for children. She was kind and respectful and spoke to them in a gentle manner throughout our visits. We did not see any negative behaviour during our visits.

The child minder has a warm, gentle and approachable manner and she supports children well to help them develop. However, there were no planning records or development records to identify children's individual needs and plan for their next steps. She engaged children in play, sat next to them and encouraged their language development. She understands the importance of offering children opportunities outside of the home and outings to play groups and play centres are an established part of the weekly routine.

3. Environment

Summary

The child minder's home is warm and welcoming. It is safe, secure and maintained to a good standard. Children have access to the garden for outdoor play. The child minder provides an adequate range of play and learning resources, which are easily accessible to children.

Our findings

The child minder is committed to providing a secure environment and is aware of her responsibility in relation to the safety of children. Her home is well-maintained and all resources are in good working order. There is a fire evacuation plan and fire evacuation drills are conducted and recorded. The child minder has risk assessments, but they do not cover all aspects of the service, such as outings and activities. For example, whilst the child minder has sought parent consent for children to use the trampoline, this equipment has not been risked assessed or reference made to manufacturers guidance. Records showed that there is current liability insurance.

The environment is warm and welcoming and children have access to a dedicated playroom. The child minder has appropriately sized furniture for activities such as craft and painting. There is plenty of space for children to move freely and have quiet times. There is a dining table suitable for older children and comfortable seating for relaxation. Resources are mostly stored at low level and can be easily accessed by children. This allows them to be independent and choose what they would like to play with. Children have access to a downstairs toilet which older children can access independently.

There is an adequate range of resources that are suitable for the age range of the children. Art and craft materials were available and resources were seen to be clean and in good repair. The resources appealed to the children's interests and they were motivated to play with them.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

The child minder runs her service to a satisfactory standard. There are very positive partnerships with parents who use her service.

Our findings

The child minder runs her service appropriately. A selection of policies was evident, but not dated, so it was difficult to establish when they were last reviewed. The child minder doesn't currently have a pet policy for the animals on the farm which children have supervised access to. Contracts we examined contained relevant information, and written parent permission regarding car transport, outdoor play and emergency medical treatment had been sought. Attendance records were maintained including the time of arrival and departure of children and the child minder maintains a visitor book. The child minder monitors her service and plans for improvements. The annual Quality of Care report has been completed, however it does not contain feedback from parents and children who use the service. There is a complaints policy in place, however it currently doesn't contain details of how older children can raise an issue regarding the service. The child minder ensures that she keeps up to date with training and manages her time appropriately. She has up to date safeguarding, paediatric first aid and food safety training. There were current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all persons over the age of 16 who live at the premises.

The child minder has built up her business through word of mouth and does not use social media. She currently cares for a small number of children and maintains contact with parents through face to face discussions when they drop off and collect their children and via text and phone calls. Parents were highly complementary in CIW feedback questionnaires, comments included '*couldn't have picked a better childminder*', and she is '*warm and welcoming*'.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We discussed the following good practice recommendations with the child minder;

- Date policies and procedures with date of last review;
- include parent and children's feedback in Quality of Care review;
- update safeguarding policy to include procedure in the event an allegation is made against the child minder, and contact details for Local Safeguarding Team;
- update medication policy to state parents must sign after medication given;
- update complaints policy to include details of how older children can make a complaint;
- develop planning records and records to identify children's individual needs and to plan for the next step in their development;
- devise pet policy, and
- risk assess the use of trampoline by children.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection, undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector made two visits to the service, which were announced at short notice to ensure the child minder's availability. As part of this inspection we;

- observed care practice;
- made a visual check of the areas used for minding;
- spoke to the childminder and minded children;
- considered information available to CIW prior to the inspection;
- looked at a range of documentation, and
- took account of feedback provided in six CIW parent questionnaires.

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	Sian Jones
Registered maximum number of places	6
Age range of children	0 to 12 years
Opening hours	08:00 to 17:30 weekdays on a part time basis
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	2 September 2015
Dates of this inspection visits	9 July and 10 July 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 that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's <i>'More Than Just Words follow up strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care.'</i>
Additional Information: None	

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