



Childcare Inspection Report on

Ruth Howard

Neath



Date Inspection Completed

10/05/2019

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Description of the service

Ruth Howard was registered as a child minder in June 2003. She cares for a maximum of ten children aged under 12 years from a house in Cimla, Neath. The service operates Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 5:30pm. The main language of the service is English.

Summary

1. Overall assessment

This was a focused inspection to look at issues identified in previous inspections in relation to care and development and leadership and management. We have therefore not considered each theme in full. Each theme will be considered fully at the next inspection.

However, we CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) found that children are suitably settled and happy and benefit from periods of free play where they can follow their interests. They have good bonds with the child minder who manages interactions appropriately and meets their needs. Leadership and management of the service is improving, although some improvements could still be made. As this was a focused inspection we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

2. Improvements

Since the last inspection the child minder had implemented some of the recommendations made. This included:
attending training in child protection, the 'Prevent Duty', behaviour management and food hygiene; updating risk assessments; the statement of purpose updating policies to show when they were last reviewed and to include CIW's correct details; and keeping a record of the specific times of children's arrival and departure.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We did not identify any non-compliance at this inspection.

1. Well-being

Summary

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full therefore, we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Our findings

Children have an appropriate voice as they make choices about what they play with and how they spend their time. For example, children selected cars, construction toys or balls to play with and freely selected something else to play with when they lost interest.

Children feel appropriately settled and content as they are relaxed in the company of the child minder and the other children. They smiled and happily conversed with the child minder and their peers as they played. One child had recently started but they showed that they were coping well with separation from their parents and played quietly alongside the other children.

Children are learning acceptable ways to behave and interact with others. On the whole, they behaved well and interacted positively with each other although there were some instances where they found it difficult to share toys. This was typical behaviour for their age and stage of development but they listened to the child minder when reminded of the need to take turns. Children helped to tidy away toys when they had finished playing with them which showed that they were learning to respect their environment and the resources they used. When it was time for the school run, one child fetched the shoes from the storage unit and handed them out to the others as a sign of courtesy.

2. Care and Development

Summary

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full therefore, we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Our findings

The child minder keeps children appropriately safe and healthy. She has undertaken training to refresh her knowledge of current practice and issues in relation to safeguarding and food hygiene. For instance, we viewed certificates that evidenced that she had recently attended training on child protection, the 'Prevent Duty' and food hygiene. Following the training, the child minder had updated some of her policies. The Child Protection policy reflected the All Wales Child Protection Procedures and outlined how she would manage any concerns she had for a child's safety. This included the procedure that she would follow if an allegation was made about herself. The child minder demonstrated an understanding of the importance of keeping accurate records in relation to safeguarding and attendance. However, she had recorded entries about accidents that children had experienced but these were very brief and not all parents had been asked to sign to acknowledge having been informed. The front door was kept locked at all times to ensure that children remained securely in the house and to prevent unauthorised access to the property.

The child minder adequately manages interactions as she reminds children how they should behave to reinforce expectations. She spoke to children quietly and calmly and outlined the importance to share, take turns and keep hands to themselves. This ensured the children were clear how to treat their peers appropriately and to play with them. This was consistent with her behaviour management policy which set out the 'house rules'. The child minder talked to the children as they played and made suggestions about how to use the toys and resources which helped to further their play and also show that she was interested in what they were doing. She told children, "*You can do it yourself,*" thus encouraging them to be more independent.

3. Environment

Summary

This was a focused inspection that addressed aspects of Well Being, Care and Development and Leadership and Management. This theme will be considered in full in future inspections.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

This was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full therefore, we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

Our findings

The child minder's leadership skills are improving, although some improvements could still be made. The service was found to be compliant with the regulations and the child minder has been implementing many of the recommendations made in previous inspections. For example, she had undertaken refresher training, updated policies and procedures to reflect current practice and dated them to show when they had been reviewed. She had also updated her risk assessment to reflect the action that she needed to take to minimise and reduce the risk of potential hazards. The child minder had kept a record of the specific times that children arrived and departed from her service, to clearly show the period that she was responsible for the children. However, visitors to the property had not been recorded in a timely manner. This was because a fellow child minder and their minded children were visiting the property when the inspection took place but the details had not been recorded in the book to reflect this. There was also no contract in place for one of the minded children. Whilst parental permission for this child had been obtained in respect of photographs and the use of IT equipment, permission had not been sought for emergency medical treatment, transportation in the child minder's car and other aspects of care such as medication or sun cream. The child minder had renewed her Disclosure and Disbarring Service (DBS) check in November 2018 which she had filed. However, she had not completed the process by sending the certificate to CIW.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

Notifications (Regulation 31) The child minder was found to be compliant because CIW had been updated in respect of changes to the service. There had been no further changes to inform CIW of.

Records (Regulation 30) The child minder was found to be compliant as a record was kept of the specific times of children's arrival and departure.

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We recommended that the child minder:

- ask all parents to sign contracts so that they are clear of the terms and conditions prior to starting at the service;
- ask parents for parental permission, in particular emergency medical consent, prior to children starting at the service;
- keep a record of all visitors when children are present;
- keep sufficiently detailed accident records and obtain a parental signature to show that parents have been informed;
- complete the DBS process by sending the certificate to CIW to view; and
- continue to implement the recommendations made at previous inspections.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was an unannounced, focused inspection to look at issues in relation to Care and Development and Leadership and Management. It was undertaken by one inspector on 10 May 2019 over a two hour period. As part of this inspection we:

- made general observations of the interactions between the child minder and the children attending the service;
- viewed records and documents including: the attendance register, visitors record, children's contracts/information forms, policies and procedures, accident and incident records, medication records, risk assessments and training certificates; and
- discussed practice with the child minder.

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	Ruth Howard
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	Up to 12 years
Opening hours	7am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	13 February 2019
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	10 May 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. 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:	

Date Published [[Insert Report Published Actual](#)]

No noncompliance records found in Open status.