



# Inspection Report

**Susan Coombs**

**Cardiff**



**Date Inspection Completed**

19/04/2021

**Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2021.**

*You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk) You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.*

## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	5
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	28 November 2018
Is this a Flying Start 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 children who use, or intend to use the service. We recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh Language in social care.'

## Summary

***This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.***

Overall, children receive good care from the child minder who promotes their well-being and is focused on their individual needs. Children are happy, relaxed and encouraged to express themselves and speak freely. Children enjoy a suitable choice of play activities which keeps them interested. The child minder's home is clean and safe with sufficient space and facilities to meet the needs of children. She has an adequate range of policies and procedures to support her service which have been recently reviewed and updated. The child minder works with parents in making decisions about their child's well-being and keeps them well informed and updated on a daily basis.

## Well-being

***'As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full'***

Children are happy, relaxed and safe in the child minder's care. They are confident to approach the child minder to ask for anything they want and are listened to. The children have the freedom to choose independently from an adequate range of toys and equipment. They readily put their ideas forward when choosing colours to draw shapes and paint pictures which they can access easily. Children are given the time to explain their ideas and thoughts. For example, they chose to play with the Lego and enjoyed explaining their imaginary game of 'danger mouse' to the child minder. They have adapted to the slight changes in routines and the resources available due to the Covid 19 pandemic very well. For example, they readily engage in the hand sanitising and hygiene routines.

Children are comfortable and familiar with the child minder and her family who they have grown very fond of and settle easily as they arrive at her home. They smile proudly as they are praised by the child minder for reading, writing and counting numbers. They are familiar with the routines and play options in the child minder's home, which gives them a sense of security and belonging. For example, a child explained that building towers and crafts are their favourite activities at the child minders. The child asked the child minder to help them build a large bridge for danger mouse to cross over. The child chatted with the child minder about the 'goodies' and the 'badies' as they stuck stickers on the bridge to protect it.

Children are polite and are praised by the child minder for good manners and being kind. They behaved very well and the atmosphere is relaxed and calm. Children's self-help skills are developing well. They often wash their own hands, help to tidy up the resources between activities and put on their own coats and shoes. They do this independently with some oversight and direction by the child minder.

## Care and Development

***'As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full'***

The child minder follows suitable procedures to ensure she can meet the health and safety needs of children she cares for. She understands the importance of updating her safeguarding knowledge and has good safeguarding procedures in place. The child minder is confident in her procedures for dealing with and recording accidents, incidents and administration of prescribed medication safely. She recognises the importance of renewing She uses her suitable policies and procedures to ensure the safety of all children in her care. Some of these policies and procedure are due to be reviewed and updated.

The child minder offers home cooked menu choices and ensures that she has a good understanding of the children's individual dietary requirements. She is due to update her knowledge and understanding of Welsh Government Guidelines on healthy food options for child care settings. The child minder has developed a specific COVID -19 policy and risk assessment and has good procedures to protect children during the current pandemic. Appropriate hygiene routines are in place to promote children's health, including encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times.

The child minder offers a school wraparound and holiday cover service; therefore most of the children attending her service are of school going age. She provides an adequate range of activities and gives warm and sensitive care to promote children's development. The child minder is in the process of reviewing the current resources with the view to increasing the range of activities available. She consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies in line with her policy. For example, they have well established house rules to follow. She listens, is responsive and respects children's views and children are clear about the rules.

## Environment

***'As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full'***

The child minder follows an adequate set of procedures to ensure the environment is safe and secure for children. Risks to children's health and safety are identified and were possible reduced or eliminated. For example, she uses a daily check list to eliminate risks to children safety and has a suitable range of risk assessments which are completed appropriately. The child minder does not currently complete formal risk assessments for trips or outings. She ensures that the safety checks for the home and appliances are up to date. Her home is clean and well maintained. The child minder has a regular cleaning routine and follows current best practice guidance to protect children from the risk of COVID 19. For example, she has set up a cleaning/ hygiene station in the entrance hall of her home with child friendly hand sanitiser and PPE easily accessible.

Her home is appropriately furnished so children can play and relax. The child minder's indoor play space has an adequate range of resources with a large quantity of craft activities. Resources provided by the child minder are well maintained and in good working order. Children can sit comfortably at child sized furniture to complete table top activities and eat their snacks. There is a TV available for children to watch including at meal times.

## Leadership and Management

The child minder has good procedures in place and she pays attention to the Day Care Regulations and National Minimum Standards (NMS). She has developed a good range of policies and procedures and has a clear vision for her service. For example: she has a statement of purpose which outlines the details of the child minding service she offers to parents and children. She understands the importance of keeping up to date with best practice and the need to refresh her training and skills regularly.

The child minder works alone and does not employ an assistant. She understands her duty to safeguard children and maintains appropriate security checks for persons over the age of sixteen years living at her home. The child minder's current self-evaluation review of her service does not include parent or children feedback or an improvement action plan for next year.

The child minder understands the importance in working in partnership with parents to ensure that children experience the support required to meet their individual needs. Contracts are agreed with parents and information about the children's preferences and individual needs are sought before they start. She keeps parents well informed and stays in contact by phone, text or email to provide feedback on the well-being of their child.



## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

- R1. Review range and variety of resources available to ensure they meet the age and interests of children attending.
- R2. Follow Welsh Government best practice guidance on healthy food for child care services.
- R3. Provide parents with information of potential food allergens in the menu plan.
- R4. Review all policies and procedures and date and ensure that you have a full risk assessment in place for trips and outings.
- R5. Update your current First Aid knowledge with a practical element of training.
- R6. Monitoring the use of TV time for children at the service.

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved**

Statement of purpose is not compliant with Regulations/NMS	Regulation 15 (1) (b)
--	--------------------------

**Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved**

None	
------	--

**Areas where priority action is required**

None	
------	--

**Areas where improvement is required**

None	
------	--

**Date Published** 03/06/2021