



Inspection Report

Julie Weaver

Port Talbot



Date Inspection Completed

27/04/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	3 February 2016
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No

Summary

This is an inspection undertaken during the Covid 19 pandemic, therefore we have focused on the priority areas for this setting and not the full quality framework.

Overall children feel secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. Most have positive relationships with the child minder and she knows most of them well. The children are forming friendships with each other, and new, younger children are starting to settle.

The setting has brief policies, procedures and risk assessments in place, which promote the children's well-being. There is a caring atmosphere and the child minder meets children's individual needs successfully.

Children receive care in a safe, secure environment. There is space and facilities to encourage children to play and learn. Toys and play equipment are age appropriate and in good condition. The setting is welcoming and friendly.

The child minder manages the setting effectively overall. She works well with parents to give them information about the service, the children's well-being and care, and they speak highly of her. We have identified an area for improvement in relation to seeking the views of children and parents and writing a quality of care report, and made three recommendations at the end of this report.

Well-being

Children play freely, and express themselves confidently. They chose toys from the selection available, which are stored at child height. Younger children communicate both verbally and non-verbally. For example, a younger child pointed and said, “*look*” when seeking the attention of the child minder. Older children speak openly and ask questions, they are listened to and receive supportive responses. For example, a child asked “*Julie, can you help me open this?*” and the child minder helped them to open a packet from their lunch box.

Children are generally happy and content. Younger, newer children are beginning to settle after a long period being unable to mix with other children and adults due to the pandemic, whilst older children are more settled. Interactions between children and the child minder are good. For example, younger children are comforted by the child minder when upset or in need of reassurance. Some older children know the child minder well as they have established relationships.

Children are interested in their play, they are polite, play and share with each other. For example, when younger children were playing with a toy, the child minder supported children in turn taking. Children have positive relationships with each other and the child minder. For example, an older child recognised the speech development of a younger child, commenting how clever the child was. Older children shared resources well, such as books with younger children and engaged in songs together happily. Children have the opportunity to play indoors, outdoors and within the local area, such as the park, library and playgroups, when open.

Children are developing their independence skills well, enabling them to do things for themselves. For example, older children use the toilet and wash their hands independently, asking for support if needed. Younger children are encouraged to feed themselves independently. Children are encouraged to take off their own clothing, such as cardigans and shoes when entering the playroom.

Care and Development

The child minder has policies and procedures in place, which promote the children's personal safety and well-being. The child minder has procedures in place to safeguard children effectively. The safeguarding policy is detailed, however it does not include reference to 'The Wales Safeguarding Procedures for children and adults at risk of abuse'. She has attended a child protection course, and confidently answered a safeguarding scenario. The child minder has a current first aid certificate.

The child minder has a satisfactory behaviour management policy in place. She follows the policy and uses the management strategies in it appropriately, as she praises children for their good behaviour. She has a separate suitable policy that includes information on how she would deal with instances of bullying. The child minder interacts well with the children. She engages with them whilst promoting their learning. She said, "*What letter are you learning now? J, what J for Julie?*" as well as asking them colours and shapes, whilst they ate their lunch.

The child minder promotes children's health satisfactorily. She records their medical requirements and allergies, and she told us that she asks parents to provide food for their own child so that they could ensure that any dietary needs are met. The child minder has appropriate parental permissions in place, including for seeking emergency medical treatment, but she had not dated all records. She also had paperwork to keep records such as accident/incident and medication administration, but there were no entries. The child minder stated there had been no accidents to date.

The child minder has good hygiene practices in place. For example, the child minder encourages children to wash their hands after using the toilet. The downstairs cloakroom has liquid soap and individual towels for each child to access and the child minder confirmed that she replaces the towels daily. There were posters in and around the toilet area to remind children to wash their hands. She also asks the children to sanitize their hands using the automatic dispenser at the front door, on entry and when leaving.

The child minder is aware of the children's individual development. She does this by observing the children and drawing on her previous experiences and knowledge of child development. The child minder does not keep written records, such as developmental or activities plans. She stated that she discusses any possible developmental delays with parents, signposting them to the appropriate health professionals. The child minder said that the pandemic has made it difficult for younger children to attend her setting and as a result they have had hardly any engagement with other children or adults. The child minder has adapted her practice whilst children are settling in. For example, the younger children take the lead on how they play, and she has paused her use of incidental Welsh.

Environment

Overall, the child minder ensures that the environment safe, secure and well maintained. The child minder completes risk assessments when going on outings and has risk assessments for the house. However, it is unclear when she completed them as the year is not recorded, and the ones provided during our visit had June as the last entry. The child minder practises regular fire drills; but the information recorded is basic. She confirmed that she tests the smoke alarms regularly, although she does not keep a record of this. She ensures the setting is at an appropriate temperature, and has wall thermometers in the playroom and kitchen to monitor this.

The child minder's premises is spacious and welcoming. The playroom is at the rear of the house, and is a bright room with floor space to play and patio doors leading onto a secure, enclosed rear garden. There are sofas, a play kitchen and low-level storage containing toys and resources. The child minder currently keeps the windows open, to promote good airflow. Some blind cords were at a height older children could reach. Following our visit, the child minder confirmed all are now out of children's reach. The child minder uses the garden and outdoor play spaces as often as possible, this includes trips to the beach and nature walks.

The child minder has appropriate equipment for a range of ages. She uses the kitchen table for children to have lunch and younger children use booster highchairs with trays. Individual child sized cutlery and utensils were stored in a separate cupboard specifically for minded children. The child minder promotes the Welsh language through her range of books and resources.

Leadership and Management

The child minder runs her service well, is organised and keeps almost all the required records. She has records, in relation to children's contracts and information, although a few we sampled were not dated. The child minder has up to date certificates such as public

liability insurance, car documents and boiler service. All household members have the required checks. She keeps accurate attendance records of when the children arrive and leave in her diary, along with what activities she has provided on that day. She did not keep a record of household members who are present whilst she is minding. Following our visit, she confirmed she is now recording these in her diary.

The child minder has a satisfactory range of policies, procedures and risk assessments. There are some which are detailed and dated, such as the Covid risk assessment, whilst most of the others are not detailed or dated; such as the safeguarding procedure and nappy changing policy. She has a statement of purpose, which accurately reflects her service.

The child minder has, in the past, reviewed and evaluated her service effectively. She has provided a quality of care report dated 2019, and had parental questionnaires that captured their views on the service. She identifies improvements needed, such as purchasing a parasol and providing an area for the younger children to play in outside. However, she has not sought the views of the parents and children or completed a report on the service for 2020. The child minder stated that this was due to her being closed for some time due to Covid 19.

The child minder promotes positive partnerships with parents. She keeps parents up to date regularly through verbal communication and use of a private 'WhatsApp' group. As part of the inspection process, we spoke to three parents and they confirmed they were very happy with the care given.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Record younger children's development effectively

R2. Record fire drills and smoke alarm checks in more detail

R3. Ensure risk assessments, policies and procedures are detailed and dated

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

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

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

The child minder needs to ensure that as part of her annual review of her service, she seeks the views of parents and children, and writes a report of her review within 28 days	Regulation 16 (3) (a)
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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