

# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Karean Leeann Carr**

**Barry**



**Date Inspection Completed**

14/01/2020

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<b>Ratings</b>	<b>What the ratings mean</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	These are services which are committed to ongoing improvement with many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice and innovation. These services deliver high quality care and support and are able to demonstrate that they make a strong contribution to improving children's well-being
<b>Good</b>	These are services with strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. They consistently exceed basic requirements, delivering positive outcomes for children and actively promote their well-being.
<b>Adequate</b>	These are services where strengths outweigh areas for improvement. They are safe and meet basic requirements but improvements are required to promote well-being and improve outcomes for children.
<b>Poor</b>	These are services where important areas for improvement outweigh strengths and there are significant examples of non-compliance that impact negatively on children's well-being. Where services are poor we will take enforcement action and issue a non-compliance notice

## Description of the service

The child minder is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for up to 10 children under 12 years old. She operates her service from her home in Barry which she shares with her husband and three young children. The service is open from 7.00am to 6pm from Monday to Thursday throughout the year, including school holidays. The child minder is a Flying Start child minder and cares for children referred by the local authority social services department. This is an English language service which uses incidental Welsh.

## Summary

Theme	Rating
<a href="#"><u>Well-being</u></a>	Excellent
<a href="#"><u>Care and Development</u></a>	Excellent
<a href="#"><u>Environment</u></a>	Excellent
<a href="#"><u>Leadership and Management</u></a>	Excellent

### 1. Overall assessment

Children are relaxed and comfortable in the child minder's home. They receive individual care and attention which meets their needs. Close relationships are evident as children attend the service regularly and are very settled. The environment is attractive, inviting and safe and is organised from a child's perspective, encouraging children to make independent choices. There are effective management systems in place which meet the requirements of the regulations. The child minder is an experienced and creative practitioner and is motivated to improve her service continually.

### 2. Improvements

The child minder has updated documents as required.

### 3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no noncompliance issues identified in this inspection.

We have made one recommendation which is noted at the end of the report in section 5.2

# 1. Well-being

**Excellent**

## Summary

Children experience a high quality, nurturing service which gives them a solid foundation for their learning and development. There is a relaxed and happy atmosphere within the home and children are able to express their views freely. Children benefit from a consistent, well-planned approach to their care and are comfortable and settled.

## Our findings

Children communicate their wishes with confidence and are happy to speak up when they need support. They make good choices because they are familiar with the options available to them. They approach the child minder with ease and their wishes are valued and pre-empted because the child minder knows the children well and understands their preferences, needs and feelings.

Children form strong attachments to the child minder and are very relaxed in her care. They respond positively to the nurturing and responsive attention provided by her. Children go to the child minder when they need reassurance and comfort and clearly benefit from the tenderness she shows them. Parents are very satisfied with the quality of care the child minder provides to their children who told us they look forward to attending the service. Children are forming friendships and have a strong sense of belonging to the service. Children give each other hugs and sing spontaneously, indicating their level of contentment and satisfaction.

Children are learning to cooperate, interact and play together and they listen to the child minder who reminds them to listen to others and to be mindful of the feelings of other people. Children are courteous and polite and show respect to each other. They value the praise given and are commended for helping and for making good attempts. They receive support from the child minder to manage their behaviour and are in the process of developing an understanding about how their actions affect others. This contributes to the positive relationships and friendly atmosphere within the service. Children are involved in deciding the rules and expectations and understand the boundaries in place. This involves eating food at the kitchen table and not jumping on the furniture in the lounge.

Children are active and curious learners and have access to an extensive range of activities and resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children receive encouragement to develop an enquiring approach to their learning. They have access to wide-ranging experiences and opportunities which promote an understanding of the world through using everyday items and materials. Children engage in role-play activities such as shopping, cooking, gardening and building tracks for the garage. They look after herb plants and use them when cooking soup which they like to share. They move easily from the inside to the outdoor play area and enjoy sand,

water play, colouring, music making and play dough. Children's imagination and creative ability is stimulated by the Curiosity Approach, which underlies the method used by the child minder to motivate children's desire to explore, discover and figure things out. This approach focuses on promoting interaction between individuals, and the child minder uses it successfully and with enthusiasm. Children are developing positive, enjoyable relationships with other children and the child minder. Children are extremely motivated to experiment within play activities and are in control of the time they spend with the child minder.

## 2. Care and Development

Excellent

### Summary

The child minder is an experienced and confident childcare practitioner and has developed a very good range of effective systems to ensure children's health and safety is considered and their needs are met. She has put in place the required policies and procedures to promote positive outcomes for children who receive a consistently high standard of care.

### Our findings

There are effective systems in place to promote the health and safety of children. The child minder understands her responsibility to safeguard children, to monitor any concerns and refer to the appropriate authority if necessary. She records all concerns and understands the need to maintain careful records, including following up outcomes. She has completed child protection training which includes Prevent (Prevent is a government strategy to protect children from the dangers of extremism and radicalisation). Accidents and incidents are well recorded and a record is kept of any existing injuries of children. The child minder holds a current first aid certificate and updates her food hygiene training regularly. Very good attention is given to maintaining an infection free environment as the child minder ensures all surfaces are cleaned and that gloves are used as appropriate when changing nappies. Children use individual flannels to dry hands after washing. The child minder provides healthy and nutritious food and children have their own water bottle. Medication forms are comprehensive and detailed and include a request for information of the last dose administered at home by a parent.

There is a behaviour management policy in place and the child minder uses positive behaviour management strategies to promote children's welfare. She takes into account the age and developmental stage of children and understands that these factors can affect children's behaviour. The child minder spends time listening to children and gives them individual attention as needed. She compliments children for helping and good behaviour and uses distraction techniques to refocus children when needed. The child minder is a calming influence and a positive role model who minimises any difficulties for children effectively.

The child minder takes into account children's interests when planning activities. She follows children's requests during the sessions and is guided by them with regard to activity planning which is done spontaneously. This engages children's interests and ensures they are in control of deciding daily planning. She uses the Foundation Phase planning tools to assess children's achievements and developmental needs. Flying Start colleagues carry out Wellcomm communication assessments and pass them on to the child minder who keeps fully informed about all relevant issues relating to children's health and wellbeing. The child minder is planning to start the Healthy and Sustainable Preschool Scheme which is designed to promote the mental, emotional and physical health and well-being of pre-school children.





### **3. Environment**

**Excellent**

#### **Summary**

The child minder's home is safe, clean and well maintained. There is a dedicated playroom, which acts as a base room for all activities. This leads outside to a covered play area and a paved garden. Children also use the lounge and the kitchen. There are downstairs toilet facilities. Both indoors and outdoors have excellent resources. Good attention is given to safety and security and the child minder ensures that children are well supervised at all times.

#### **Our findings**

The child minder is proactive and committed to providing a safe and secure environment. The exits to the premises are locked when children are present. Registers for children's attendance, including times of arrival and departure are in place along with a record of any visitors to the house when minded children are present. The premises are very well maintained and all resources are in good working order. There is appropriate insurance for the home and an annual gas safety certificate is in place. Fire evacuation drills are completed every month and would benefit from additional information to identify any hazards encountered. The child minder completes regular risk assessments and a daily visual risk assessment, taking any action as required. Outings to community activities are risk assessed on the day to take into account any local information.

The child minder's home is child centred, warm and welcoming. The outdoor area is easily accessed through the playroom and an excellent range of resources ensures children are stimulated and enthusiastic when they arrive. The child minder has suitable seating to allow children to eat meals together indoors and outside. There are also highchairs and a small table and chairs available for younger children outdoors. The home benefits from good natural light and the storage for resources is at a suitable height for all children to access independently. Resources and toys are very well organised and inviting. The downstairs bathroom is clean and fresh and children have use of a stool to reach the sink and a toilet training seat if required.

Resources provided by the child minder provide children with excellent opportunities for satisfying and interesting learning and development experiences. Activities and games are child led and stimulate creativity. Children enjoy an exceptional range of opportunities and they adapt the wide range of items available such as pots and pans in a mud kitchen, building bricks, natural materials and household items. Children are keen to use the water and sand available and benefit from wearing the all-weather suits purchased by the child minder. These enable children to play outside in all weathers. The child minder told us that she regularly cleans the toys and discards anything that is broken. Outings are arranged on a regular basis and include local visitor attractions. Children's choices are considered carefully. The child minder uses play facilities within the community and makes good use of local parks, beaches and National Trust venues. The child minder has some basic knowledge of the Welsh language and uses Welsh incidentally.

#### **4. Leadership and Management**

**Excellent**

##### **Summary**

The child minder manages her service effectively and has a creative approach. She has due regard to the National Minimum Standards (NMS) and the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations. She is extremely well motivated and is open to new developments. She

demonstrates confidence and exceptional skill to promote positive outcomes for children and their families.

## **Our findings**

The child minder organises her service effectively. There is a statement of purpose, which provides an accurate picture of the service and is provided to parents. The child minder told us that she regularly consults the CIW website to ensure that she is up to date with any new developments. She is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) and understands the need for confidentiality. She is affiliated with a national child-minding organisation, which provides information and support when needed.

The child minder has completed first aid, child protection and food hygiene courses and ensures she is aware of any changes. She is committed to her continual professional development and has recently completed the Level 5 Child Care Learning and Development qualification. She is working towards gaining accreditation for the Curiosity Approach training initiative and intends to promote this ethos by training other child minders. She also plans to undertake the Forest School training course. All the required policies and procedures are in place and are reviewed regularly. Both the child minder and her husband have current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

There are systems in place to evaluate the service and plan for improvements. The child minder sends questionnaires to parents and these provide information about whether the service meets the needs of children and feedback about the quality of care. She has produced a quality of care report, which outlines her intentions with regard to service developments. The child minder attends conferences organised by the child minding association to which she is affiliated, and recently attended a course on promoting children's emotional development. She also keeps up to date with information and training from Flying Start. She intends to pursue a funding application to extend her outdoor play facility.

The child minder manages her service very successfully and maintains very good records. Documentation and records gathered at the time children are registered help her to plan her service well to ensure the needs of all children are taken into account.

The child minder does not employ an assistant. She told us that she has a back-up plan in place with other child minders in case of an emergency or unforeseen situation. The child minder also has a good network of support with other local child minders; they meet regularly for children to play and they share good practice.

Partnerships with parents are strong and returned questionnaires demonstrate the child minder is highly valued for the quality of service she provides. Parents are very satisfied with the flexibility, warmth and enthusiasm of the child minder and like the excellent range of activities available to children. There is a complaints policy in place although no complaints have been received.

## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

None

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

- To include more details on fire drill records.

## 6. How we undertook this inspection

One inspector undertook an unannounced visit to the service for five hours on 14 January 2020:

- We engaged with the three children present
- we looked at the returned questionnaires of two parents
- we looked at the information held by CIW
- we looked at a wide range of records. These included the statement of purpose, risk assessments, copies of policies, which included safeguarding, safety records and monitoring records. We also looked at children's records
- we made a visual check of the premises used by children
- we provided verbal feedback to the child minder at the end of the inspection

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

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)

## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Karean Carr
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	6 months to 12 years
Opening hours	7am –6pm Monday to Thursday throughout the year
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	21 March 2016
Dates of this inspection visit	14 January 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	Children are referred from Flying Start
Is early year's education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	This service 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 their service. We recommend the service provider consider Welsh Government's <i>'More Than Just Words Follow on Strategic Guidance for Welsh Language in Social Care'</i> .
Additional Information: None	

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