



Childcare Inspection Report on

Ali Tots Childminding services

Barry



Date Inspection Completed

12/03/2020

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Ratings	What the ratings mean
Excellent	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
Good	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.
Adequate	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.
Poor	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 operates her service from her home in the Cwm Talwg area of Barry. She is registered to care for six children under 12 years at any one time. Child minding is offered Monday to Friday throughout the year. Children have access to the ground floor areas of the home. Care is provided through the medium of English.

Summary

Theme	Rating
<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

1. Overall assessment

Children enjoy their time at this setting and are making friends and good all round progress. The child minder knows them very well and is attentive to their needs. She plans activities well and provides an interesting range of opportunities for them. The environment is very well resourced and provides suitable facilities. Some policies and procedures need to be expanded. All required records are in place, with effective processes in place to enable the child minder to organise her business effectively.

2. Improvements

The child minder has addressed the matters raised at the last inspection. For example, they have:

- Drawn up a procedure for transporting children;
- developed a daily safety checklist;
- developed a policy regarding children accessing the internet;
- expanded information recorded in fire drill;
- updated the safeguarding policy;
- improved records of attendance; and
- improved the process for carrying out a review of the service.

Additionally, the child minder has registered her service with the Information Commissioner's Office and reviewed her service with regard to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

3. Requirements and recommendations

At this inspection, we made a recommendation for the child minder to further consider updating some policies such as the behaviour management policy. The Statement of Purpose also needs to be updated.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children direct their own play and learning well and are confident communicators to voice their needs and opinions. They are very settled in the care of the child minder and relaxed in her home. Children have formed close friendships and interact positively with one another. They are developing good all round skills, in line with their age and stage for development.

Our findings

Children are free to make choices and decisions. They choose what they would like to do, areas they want to play and equipment they want to use. They confidently approach the child minder for general conversations and to ask for help. For example, we saw them asking the child minder for extra resources and for help within their play. They are enabled to voice their opinions and are included in all aspects of their care. Children chose what they wanted to eat for tea. Children spoke about how they were engaged in planning discussions, to contribute their ideas for activities.

Children are happy and relaxed in the care of the child minder. Most children have been attending for a number of years and some are sibling groups. They have developed friendships with other children and have a good relationship with the child minder. Younger children have good levels of resilience to settle quickly, coping well with separation from their main carers. We saw a child point at a portrait their sibling had painted and smiled broadly. Children are familiar with the environment, moving freely between play areas and the dining room. Children were clearly happy to have pets in the room, although they did not approach them, as they were aware they were elderly.

Children interact very well. They decide and comply with socially acceptable boundaries set by the child minder. Children spoken to were aware of the boundaries in place, as they had attended for a while. Older children happily engaged and supported younger children in their play, taking pride in this. As such, we saw them enjoying one another's company and playing co-operatively together.

Children enjoy their play and learning very much. They are able to engage in activities of their choice as well as activities planned by the child minder to extend their learning. For example, there was a 'garden centre' set up and the children had been learning about fruit and vegetables. Children enjoy playing with items from a well resourced treasure basket of natural items. One child enjoyed rolling and putting on bracelets as well as feeling the difference between the weight and texture of items. Children smiled and laughed together but were also able to relax and sit if they were tired. Children cannot currently access the

garden for physical activities but we accompanied the child minder on a walk to the local park, until it rained. The child minder said that children are taken out regularly. Children told us that they enjoy attending the setting and the activities that are available.

Children are developing good levels of independence, in line with their age and stage for development. We saw children access the toilet independently, feed themselves meals and snacks, access equipment, put their own shoes on and follow directions, such as to tidy toys away and wash their hands at appropriate times. They are motivated and follow their personal interests.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

The child minder fully understands her responsibility for keeping children safe and has good procedures in place. She has established boundaries within the setting and sets high expectations for behaviour, effectively guiding children's interactions. The child minder plans a good variety of play and learning opportunities to meet all children's development needs.

Our findings

The child minder is experienced in her role, having previously been a primary school teacher and now a child minder for a number of years. She has effective policies and care practice measures in place, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in her care. Safeguarding has a high priority and as such, the child minder ensures that her safeguarding training and knowledge is kept up to date. She has a detailed policy in place, which includes matters such as internet/mobile phone use and 'Prevent', which is regarding a government strategy to help protect children from being drawn into extremism. Further training she has undertaken to enable her to carry out her role successfully includes food hygiene and paediatric first aid. Fire drills are practised monthly and appropriate records are kept. We viewed a sample of accident, incident and medication records and noted that they are well completed and monitored. The child minder promotes healthy lifestyles, providing the children with fresh drinking water and healthy fruit snacks. We observed and discussed the care of the child minder's two elderly dogs. The child minder has a robust cleaning routine and ensures that their care does not affect the children.

The child minder is skilled at managing interactions and implementing consistent boundaries. She includes children in discussions about the house rules, so that they are fully understood. The behaviour management policy outlines how behaviour is managed but does not outline how any incidences of bullying or biting are handled. We observed her taking a calm and direct approach with the children, so that they understood what was expected of them. For example, she reminded the children to wait to ask questions without interrupting others discussions, and asked them to tidy away toys to make space for more. We also saw the child minder giving the children lots of positive feedback for their achievements, nurturing their needs for praise and encouragement. She encouraged them to support each other and engage in conversations.

The child minder plans a good range of activities to promote children's play, learning and development. She has a very good understanding of their needs and plans activities comprehensively. She bases these on the Foundation Phase principles, identifying activities across the seven areas for learning. Assessment records are in place, including observation sheets and developmental checklists. She has a vast assortment of play and

learning resources that she has built up to support planned activities and make them interesting. For example, soft interactive toys for storytelling. There are many multicultural playthings available. Photographs and displays of children's work in the playroom, shows the many activities that children have engaged in. We did not hear any Welsh language used and the child minder said that this was an area she needed to develop.

3. Environment

Good

Summary

The child minder's home is well maintained with safety aspects considered, to provide a safe and suitable space for operating a child minding service. There is a dedicated playroom where most resources are stored and where play takes place for pre school children. Other areas downstairs are also used but upstairs rooms are not used. It is very well resourced with an excellent variety of equipment and furniture, to meet the needs of all children.

Our findings

The child minder has effective measures and procedures to ensure the safety of the children's environment. Public liability insurance is up to date. Written risk assessments are updated regularly and include a number of key areas such as the premises and operational activities. Policies outlining how dogs are cared for alongside children safely and how children are transported are also available. A daily safety checklist is used to identify any day-to-day issues. Safety equipment is in place, including smoke detectors, a safety gate and a fire blanket. A gas safety certificate is in place, with the last certificate expiring 30 May 2020. Medication and chemicals are stored safely.

The child minder ensures the environment is suitable for child minding. There is a purpose built playroom, which although not large, is set up to provide a good range of activities. This area is also adapted for children to sleep if needed. The lounge and dining areas provide areas for different activities and ensures that children have plenty of space to play alone or with others. The kitchen is directly off the lounge, allowing the child minder to provide appropriate supervision whilst they may need to use this area. Toilet facilities specifically for children's use are directly accessed off the playroom, making them easy for children to use independently. The outdoor area is being renovated to provide a flat patio area and a separate area for the dogs. As this area is not currently available for children to use, alternative arrangements are in place so children can have fresh air and exercise.

The resources and equipment are well organised and plentiful. They are clean and in good working order. There is a very large variety to suit all age ranges, including resources to support children's awareness and understanding of nature, different cultures and disabilities. Equipment to support the care of children was available, for example a eating and sleep facilities. The child minder said that they were clear regarding the car seat laws and ensured that she used correct car seats.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The child minder is knowledgeable about her regulatory responsibilities and keeps up to date with best practice. She annually reviews her service to identify areas for improvement, when necessary. Some policies need expanding. Good processes are in place to promote partnerships with parents.

Our findings

The child minder runs an efficient child minding service, with all required paperwork and processes in place. She has a good understanding of current best practice relevant to her service. We viewed the statement of purpose and saw that it generally, meets the regulations. However, it did not clearly reflect the current use of the garden, hours of operation or that overnight care is not provided as part of her child minding business. She has reviewed policies and procedures to reflect changes to legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). A number of relevant policies and procedures are in place and we saw that parents are provided with this information prior to their children starting, to enable them to make an informed choice about using the service. Some policies and procedures need to be expanded to provide additional information. We looked at a sample of operational records including contracts with parents and attendance records. All required information is recorded and kept up to date.

The child minder is reflective and has an effective system in place for reviewing her service. She values feedback from parents and children. The child minder is aware of the requirement to provide self-evaluation information to CIW as requested and has done this recently. A complaint policy is in place but it was not clear regarding how a child may raise any concerns. The child minder was keen to hear our views as part of the inspection and demonstrated she valued recommendations that can help improve the service. She was receptive to advice.

The child minder currently works alone and manages her time well. She has contingency plans in place to support her in the event of an emergency. We saw that she is organised and had planned the activities well on the days we visited. She prepared and served lunch to the children while providing them with support and supervision. All adults living at the home have a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate to confirm their suitability.

Partnerships with parents are generally effective. The child minder provides comprehensive information about the service to parents and speaks to them daily regarding their child's

care, providing written information and sharing photographs via secure social media as well. She makes good use of local facilities and play spaces, which develop a sense of ownership in the community. The child minder is also committed to working in partnership with other professional agencies if required, to ensure children's welfare is promoted.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Update the Statement of Purpose;
- expand the behaviour management policy to outline how any incidences of bullying or biting are handled;
- expand the complaint procedure to outline how children can raise concerns and how these will be handled; and
- consider ways of introducing the Welsh language to enhance children's learning and development.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection, undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. It was unannounced. The inspection took place on one day and was undertaken by one inspector.

- We reviewed information held by CIW;
- observations were carried out indoors to capture evidence of the minded children's engagement and the care provided;
- we undertook a visual inspection of the premises;
- we looked at a range of records including contracts with parents, statement of purpose and several policies and procedures; and
- we provided feedback to the child minder at the end of the inspection visit.

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	Alison Thomas
Registered maximum number of places	6
Age range of children	Under 12 years
Opening hours	7am to 7pm (under review)
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	7 March 2017
Dates of this inspection visit	12 March 2020
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?	<p>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. <i>This may be because the service is situated in a primarily English speaking area and the provider does not currently intend to offer or promote a Welsh language service.</i></p> <p>We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's '<i>More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care</i>'.</p>
Additional Information: None	

Date Published 03/08/2020

No noncompliance records found in Open status.