



Inspection Report

Laura Taylor

Cardiff



Date Inspection Completed

16/02/2021

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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	This is the first inspection of this setting since registration.
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 people /children who use, or intend to use their service.

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.

Children settle well and are happy at this setting. They are able to make choices and decisions about their care and play. Children have opportunities to become independent and develop their individual skills through range of quality experiences and play. Children form close bonds with the child minder and other children at the setting, making them feel safe and secure.

The child minder has an acceptable understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She manages children's interactions well. The child minder plans a wide variety of activities and keeps reasonable records of children's progress.

The environment is welcoming, well organised and supports children play and learning. An assortment of indoor and outdoor toys and resources promote children's all round development. The child minder ensures children experience visits to local parks and woodlands.

The child minder manages the setting appropriately. She has suitable policies, procedures and records, although some of these would benefit from more frequent reviews and updates. Parents are very complimentary of the setting and the child minder has built positive partnerships.

Well-being

Children have opportunities to make choices and decisions. For example, choosing which food they would like for snack. They move around easily and make their own choices from the toys and activities available to them. We saw children thoroughly enjoying their play with a variety of farm animals. They chose which ones to play with, exploring the different sizes, textures and had great fun mimicking different animal sounds. Children's views and interests are considered and valued when planning activities.

Children are listened to which makes them feel safe. For instance, one child showed signs of tiredness the child minder asked if they would like their milk, they answered with a resounding 'yes' and shortly after settled for their nap. Children receive frequent praise for their efforts and achievements, which makes them feel happy and valued. We saw children jumping up and down and clapping their hands with delight when the child minder praised them for successfully wheeling toy vehicles down a ramp.

Children clearly enjoy their play and receive good play opportunities. They are enthusiastic and fully involved in their activities. Children have daily opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They play in the garden and enjoy walks to the local park and woodlands. We saw many photographs of children on outings learning about their local area, including trips to the beach, the farm and Roath Park. (Prior to COVID 19 pandemic.)

Children learn self-help skills and are encouraged to carry out tasks independently which helps prepare them for attending school. They use a step to reach the hand wash basin and dry their hands with individual paper towels before placing in the bin. Children help to tidy away toys and activities before choosing other resources.

Care and Development

The child minder keeps children safe and healthy. Increased cleaning routines due to the COVID-19 pandemic help to prevent the spread of the virus and other infections. In addition the child minder and the children wash their hands more frequently. She has a current first aid certificate and written permissions from parents for a variety of situations, including emergency medical treatment, outings and application of sun cream. The child minder has a good understanding of child protection and the steps to follow if she had concerns about a child. However, the child protection policy does not fully detail her practice. Regularly conducted fire drills ensure that children and the child minder are aware of how to evacuate the premises safely.

The child minder supports children to interact appropriately. She is a good role model and encourages children to share and be kind. The child minder deals with any unwanted behaviour quickly and calmly through discussions. For example, a child became over enthusiastic with their play; the child minder spoke gently to the child, and explained why the behaviour was inappropriate. The child minder promotes good manners and reminds children to say please and thank you at appropriate times.

The child minder is familiar with the children's individual needs and provides activities and resources according to their interests. She plans for all areas of the Foundation Phase to include multicultural celebrations such as Diwali. Records of children's development do not clearly identify planning for children's next steps in their learning. The child minder naturally extends children's learning during their play. For example, during their play with the farm animals, the child minder encouraged children's mathematical development through counting and comparing sizes of the animals.

Environment

The environment is a safe space for children. Regular safety checks take place and all areas of the premises and any outings are risk assessed. Although, risk assessments do not fully reflect current practice. The front door and garden gate remain locked when children are present. A stairgate prevents children accessing the porch area and stairs. Registers record the times that children arrive at and leave the setting and the child minder keeps a record of any visitors to the home.

The environment is clean and well maintained. It provides a light, bright and spacious area for children to play and learn. The playroom stores a wide range of resources for the ages and stages of development of the children. This includes puzzles, games, and arts and crafts. Welsh books, posters and games promote the Welsh language. A range of multicultural resources such as books and dolls and a large wall map promote children's awareness of the multicultural society they live in. Toys are stored in low-level units that children can access independently. There is an inviting outdoor space for children to play. This includes football goals, climbing frame and a large plastic greenhouse that children use to grow a range of vegetables.

The child minder told us that she regularly cleans and alternates toys and resources, which is especially important during the current pandemic. The environment is further equipped with suitably sized furniture and equipment to support children's independence. For example, a travel cot, high chairs, child sized table and chairs, and a step, potty and special seat available in the toilet.

Leadership and Management

The child minder organises her service suitably. All the required policies and procedures are in place and most reflect current practice. The child minder has a statement of purpose, which explains her child minding service, although it does not reflect current practice or up to date contact details for CIW. The child minder understands information security, safety and confidentiality. The required Disclosure and Barring Service checks are in place for all household members.

The child minder evaluates her care and makes improvements. She has completed a quality of care report that includes the opinions of people using her service. Recent improvements include the addition of a climbing frame/slide/swing set and plastic greenhouse to the garden. The child minder has more recently secured a grant to fund further improvements to the garden including an additional patio/play area for children to access in all weathers. There is a complaints policy, although it does not include information on how a child can raise a complaint or up to date contact details for CIW. Children's files contain all the necessary information to care for children safely.

The child minder has positive partnerships with parents. Parents that we spoke to confirmed that they are very happy with the care given. They told us that they receive updates throughout the day via pictures on a private message site and verbal feedback when collecting their children.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Children's development records should include planning for the next steps in their learning.

R2. Ensure policies and risk assessments reflect current practice and update regularly.

R3. Include information on how children can raise a complaint in the complaints policy, and ensure the contact details of Care Inspectorate Wales are correct.

R4. Update the Statement of purpose to reflect current practice and ensure contact details of Care Inspectorate Wales are correct.

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 immediate action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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Date Published 01/04/2021