



Childcare Inspection Report on

Lydia Thomas

Llandeilo

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

05/04/2019

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Description of the service

The child minder is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for up to 10 children under the age of 12 years. She operates her service from her home near Llandeilo and offers flexible care. The service operates from 8.00am until 6.00pm Monday to Friday. English is the main language of the service but Welsh is also used.

Summary

1. Overall assessment

Children are generally happy in this child minder's care. They are secure and happy in an environment they are familiar with and they are building positive friendships with their peers. The environment is suitable but some improvements are needed. The child minder has good partnerships with parents and generally manages her service appropriately although some improvements are required.

2. Improvements

None

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have advised the child minder of improvements needed in relation to fire drills and practices as means of fire precaution (regulation 38) and record keeping in order to fully meet the legal requirements. We have not issued a non compliance notice on this occasion as there was no significant impact or risk to children. We expect the registered person(s) to take action to rectify this and it will be followed up at the next inspection.

We made several recommendations and these have been listed at the back of the report.

1. Well-being

Summary

Children are happy and enjoy their time at the service. Children interact well with each other and benefit from the activities and opportunities given to them. Children have formed close bonds with the child minder and her family. Children are active and express enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Our findings

Children were happy and settled in this child minder's care. They interacted appropriately and they generally enjoy their learning. Children have a choice at this service and their voices are listened to. For example, children were able to choose what colour apron they wanted. Children have a bond of affection with the child minder and are comfortable in her care. Children approached the child minder for cuddles and one child did not want to leave at the end of a session as they were enjoying themselves. They have a sense of belonging, forming relationships and are familiar with routines. However, on occasions, a minority of children find it more difficult to settle but respond to the comfort given by the child minder. Children were learning to co-operate and we observed older children playing together and sharing resources. For example, one child asked another if they wanted something to drink. Younger children tended to play independently, although we saw children of different ages painting together. We observed one child responding very kindly to a much younger child. Children sustained interest and showed enjoyment during some activities. Children have some sense of achievement in what they have done.

We observed children engaged in freely chosen play during our visit, including dancing and playing with construction blocks. Children persevered for some time with their activities, including building a tower of blocks and painting. Children thoroughly enjoyed preparing their pizzas for lunch and ate the pizzas for lunch once they had been cooked.

Children generally sustained an interest in their play, they communicated appropriately with the child minder and they listened to the child minder when she gave them positive direction. For example, a child tidied toys when prompted by the child minder. Children played alongside each other comfortably and played co-operatively. For example, all children responded well when they were playing musical statues. We observed older children showing kindness and care when playing with younger children.

2. Care and Development

Summary

The child minder has systems and procedures in place to ensure that she can offer an appropriate service to the children in her care. However, improvements are required in relation to record keeping. She interacted well with the children and managed behaviour well. The child minder provided appropriate activities for the children and also provides opportunities to develop. There were some opportunities for children to develop their independence.

Our findings

Children were kept generally safe and their well-being was promoted. The child minder has a valid paediatric first aid certificate and had booked onto a course to update her training as her current certificate was due to expire. There is a safeguarding policy in place, however it does not include the correct contact details and safeguarding training had not been updated for some time. During the inspection, the child minder was generally aware of her responsibilities in relation to child protection. The child minder informed us that she had undertaken prevent duty training online following the inspection.

The child minder generally demonstrated the importance of hygiene and ensured that children washed their hands diligently and regularly. Although the child minder washed her hands regularly, there were some inconsistencies on occasions. For example, after petting the rabbit, the child minder did not wash her hands before giving a child milk. Children were provided with a variety of meals which included toast, crumpets, tomato wheels and fruit for snacks and fruity chicken curry, and chicken dinners for lunch. Children were provided with drinks during mealtimes but fresh drinking water was not freely available to children at all times during the inspection.

The child minder had a behaviour management policy in place, which detailed how she would respond and deal with any unwanted behaviour. The child minder followed the policy and children were clear about standards of behaviour that are expected at the setting. She was responsive and respected children's views. Overall interactions were positive, demonstrating warmth and kindness. The child minder managed interactions well and offered frequent praise and kind words to reinforce good behaviour. Her approach was calm and she used a good range of distraction techniques to divert any unwanted behaviour.

The child minder gave children opportunities to develop their independence, for example, they were able to make their own pizzas and provided different toppings for the children to choose from. However, there were some missed opportunities at snack time.

The child minder informed parents verbally about their child's overall well-being at the end of the day. She kept a daily diary for younger children but the records in relation to food

eaten were not very detailed. The child minder does not maintain any formal planning records currently and explained that she follows the children's interests.

3. Environment

Summary

The child minder implements a range of appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that the environment is appropriate for children in her care. The playroom offers children a range of interesting play opportunities and the kitchen is used for messy play and cooking activities. Improvements are required in relation to risk assessments.

Our findings

The child minder had risk assessments in place including the use of the car on school runs, animals and playroom. However, they had not been regularly reviewed. The guinea pig food was placed towards the front of the hutch although the risk assessments noted that they were to be kept at the back, out of reach of children. The child minder told us that she visually checked the environment on a daily basis. There was a valid central public liability insurance certificate in place and the child minder told us that the boiler had recently been serviced although the certificate was not available on the day of the inspection. The child minder had a visitors' book in place. During our first visit, the front door was left unlocked on some occasions, which could lead to an unauthorised access and children being able to leave the house. The child minder told us that she checked the fire alarm regularly but did not keep records. There was a statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire or accident. The child minder had safety locks on kitchen cupboards to ensure that children were not able to access these.

The child minder kept a record of children's attendance but was not consistent in noting time in and time out and only recorded children's first names.

There was a pet policy in place, however the guinea pig food was not placed at the back of the hut as per policy. The child minder told us that she cleaned the rabbit and guinea pig hut regularly and mopped the kitchen floor daily but she did not record daily checks or cleaning records. The child pet policy had limited detail with regards to hygiene matters.

There is a good sized outdoor play area that presents some opportunities for the children. The child minder told us that she had plans to develop the outdoor area further and this was also noted in the Quality of Care report.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

The child minder mostly meets the National Minimum Standards and most documentation is in place. However, there is room for improvement. She works closely with parents and carers and values the importance of working together.

Our findings

During the inspection period, we received an updated statement of purpose, which gave an accurate picture of the service and was made available to parents, together with policies and procedures. However, it did not contain the child minder's address. Generally, contracts were discussed and shared with parents, setting out the expectations of both parties and permissions were sought for activities such as outings, administering sun cream and seeking medical treatment in an emergency. Policies were in place and were mostly implemented although some minor amendments were needed to the child protection policy and pet policy. The public liability insurance certificate was valid as well as the vehicle insurance, tax and MOT documentation.

In the main, the child minder kept all relevant documents in order. However, not all documents were easily available. For example, the insurance documentation was sought from the e-mail account and the boiler service document was unavailable. During the inspection, there was no quality of care report available. However, during the inspection process, the child minder had prepared a quality of care report and forwarded a copy to Care Inspectorate Wales. However, the report did not fully reflect the parents' and children's responses and therefore the report was not fully reflective of the review.

The child minder had developed good relationship with parents. During the inspection, parents praised the child minder and the questionnaires received from parents were also positive.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

This was a post registration inspection.

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We recommended that the child minder:

- further develops the children's independence skills;
- ensures that all risk assessment records are updated and dated accordingly;
- update the child protection policy and her training;
- ensure that the quality of care report is reflective;
- includes more detail in the daily diaries;
- ensure that the entrance door is always locked;
- ensures that all children's names are recorded in full and time in and time out is recorded consistently for all children;
- expands on the pet policy;
- always forwards the Statement of Purpose to CIW when it is updated;
- ensure hygiene practices are consistent and
- follows the new Welsh Government Food and Nutrition policy.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector carried out an unannounced inspection to the service on 3 and 5 April 2019. We gave feedback over the phone on 8 April 2019.

We:

- had discussions with the child minder about her service;
- observed the children and the care which they received;
- looked at a wide range of records including children's records, the child minder's policies, safety records, and the statement of purpose and
- inspected the premises.

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	Lydia Thomas
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	Up to 12 years old
Opening hours	7.30am-5.30pm
Operating Language of the service	Welsh and English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This was their first inspection following registration in 2018.
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	3 and 5 April 2019
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?	<i>The service is working towards providing the 'active offer' in relation to the Welsh language</i>
Additional Information:	

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