



Childcare Inspection Report on

Sarah Baker

Cardiff



Date Inspection Completed

01/07/2019

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2019.

You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

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 is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for 8 children under the age of 12. She operates from her large, detached family home in Pantmawr, Rhiwbina, Cardiff. The main language of the service is English but the child minder has developed many aspects of her service in the Welsh language.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Overall, we found that children experience an exceptionally high standard of care. The children are very happy and their needs are at the centre of the service. They are cared for by a highly qualified and very motivated child minder who promotes their well-being excellently. Children benefit from a very well organised environment that encourages them to make independent choices and promotes play, learning and development. The child minder has made excellent use of both the indoor and outdoor areas to provide activities that are both exciting and engaging for the children. Children can enjoy a tremendous variety of interesting activities, both at the child minders home and in the community. These activities are carefully planned to promote their development across all areas of learning and many involve outdoor play. This helps the children feel confident to explore, express their feelings and ask for help. The service is managed excellently. Clear procedures are successfully implemented to ensure children are safe and their health is promoted. The child minder works closely with parents and is developing relationships with children's teachers to ensure they are very well supported.

2. Improvements

This was the childminders first inspection post registration.

3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no non compliance issues identified at this inspection. Some minor recommendations were actioned immediately at the time of the inspection.

1. Well-being

Excellent

Summary

Children experience an excellent quality, nurturing service which gives them a superb foundation for their learning and development. Children enjoy their time with the child minder very much. They speak and express themselves confidently. They actively make choices about their play and are consulted about their care. Children are happy and feel safe through strong emotional attachments with the child minder and her family. They have formed very good relationships with the child minder, who knows them very well. They interact well with their friends and make good progress in all aspects of their learning. They are able to enjoy an excellent variety of activities, which promote their development successfully.

Our findings

Children speak or express themselves very well and can communicate their needs in a variety of different ways. We saw that the child minder understands their needs, preferences, feelings and this took precedence over the daily routine. Children make appropriate choices and decisions because they are aware of the options available to them and are consulted over a range of issues. We saw children approaching the child minder confidently to chat or to ask for assistance. We observed the child minder encouraging children to choose what they wanted to play with and they were obviously very familiar with the choices and areas available. The children moved around freely, choosing activities that interested them and which friends they wanted to play with. Children are involved in the activity planning and we saw the child minder asking children their ideas about what they should do next, giving them opportunities to problem solve. The child minder also explained that she regularly updates resources in consultation with the children.

Children are very settled and comfortable in the child minder's care. We observed them smiling and constantly 'chatting' with the child minder and each other, as they played, clearly relaxed, happy and safe in her care. They have forged strong bonds of attachment with her and good relationships with her family. They approached her for cuddles and support. They enjoyed lots of individual attention, natural conversation and positive interactions. They were able to talk with the child minder about their family and were confident that she knew them well. They are familiar with the routine for the day and understand what the child minder expects of them, which promotes their sense of security. They have places to put their belongings and we saw them fetch their shoes and coats ready to put them on.

Children interact and co-operate well with their peers and adults and are learning to express what they need. They are forming positive friendship groups in the service and there is an emphasis on the importance of working together and helping each other. We saw that children played happily together and their behaviour was outstanding. The children worked in small groups sharing toys, completing tasks and exploring activities. Children at

times played alone and were very content. We heard children saying please and thank you regularly and they were highly praised for positive behaviour, or being kind to their friends. Children were very calm and relaxed in the home environment and they had obvious friendship bonds with each other.

Children enjoy an excellent variety of activities at the child minder's home and out and about. Children are active, curious learners. We noted the children were busy and engaged positively in play and activities they enjoyed or that interested them. Children spent time, playing with a variety of 'Under the Sea' themed activities and were engrossed in imaginative play and exploration. Children concentrated well when fishing in the water tray and were pleased when they found the fish with the appropriate sequenced number displayed. Children were animated and interested in the activities available.

Children have tremendous amounts of control over their play and learning. They have an outstanding variety of experiences, including freely chosen, unstructured and self-directed play. This enables them to gain a very good range of skills, be independent, participate, follow interests and promote their all-round development. They make very good progress, are confident to try new things and encouraged to take appropriate risks. They develop appropriate self-help skills which allows them to do things for themselves. They are very independent and make exceptional progress from their starting points and develop an excellent range of important skills for their future learning.

2. Care and Development

Excellent

Summary

The child minder has excellent systems and procedures in place to ensure that she can offer a quality service to children in her care. Safeguarding underpins all aspects of the child minder's practice and she works hard to ensure her policies and procedures are implemented appropriately. The child minder is very well qualified in education and care practices. The child minder plans an excellent balance of planned and free play activities, including trips out. She effectively assesses children's needs to enable them to grow and reach their full potential. Children are developing socially and managing their interactions appropriately with the support of a skilled child minder.

Our findings

The child minder is experienced in working with children in an educational and caring role. She has comprehensive procedures in place for keeping children safe and healthy. These include a detailed child protection policy that includes the child minder's 'Prevent' duty, a government strategy to help protect children from extremism. The child minder is a qualified primary school teacher. She has attended numerous other courses relevant to child minding and has used her knowledge to improve her service. She also has current training certificates for child protection, paediatric first aid and food hygiene. A very good range of healthy food and snacks are provided and the child minder has a system to record children's allergies and what allergens are present in food. We saw that the child minder encourages children to drink plenty of water to keep hydrated. Appropriate hygiene routines are in place to promote children's health, including good nappy changing procedures and encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times using liquid soap. Fire drills are practised regularly to ensure that all children can evacuate the building in the event of an emergency and these are recorded well. We viewed the child minder's accident/incident/medication records and noted that records were fully completed and signed appropriately by all parties.

The child minder is positive in her approach to managing children's interactions. We observed plenty of smiles and encouragement to celebrate children's achievements which significantly enhances their well-being. The child minder models manners consistently throughout the day, enabling younger children to hear 'please' and 'thank you' appropriately. The behaviour management policy is well written and shared with new parents to ensure her approach to managing children's behaviour is consistent. She is fully aware of the different needs and ages of children in her care and we observed her adapt her interactions and strategies accordingly.

The child minder provides care which is child centred and meets children's individual needs. She regularly informs parents about their child's progress and overall wellbeing. She

provides an outstanding variety of enjoyable, stimulating, challenging play and learning opportunities both indoors and outside to promote the children's all-round development. She makes regular observations on children's progress and plans for the next steps in the children's play and learning. The child minder had planned play based activities which were linked to observations made of the children's development. There was a large emphasis on free play with areas of continuous provision well set up so that children had access to an excellent range of activities. She explained that she promotes children's awareness of other cultures by celebrating festivals such as Diwali, Chinese New Year and Saint David's Day and has a selection of multicultural toys and resources to promote children's understanding and hopes to increase the range of multi-cultural resources available shortly. All children were given equal opportunities throughout the visit and the child minder supported children well with their language development. There was also a very good use of incidental Welsh used during the visit.

3. Environment

Excellent

Summary

We saw that all areas of the service including the garden are very well equipped, and the children enjoy an excellent variety of activities. The child minder provides a safe and welcoming environment for children that stimulates their learning and meets their individual needs well. She is vigilant and aware of the hazards to children and takes appropriate action. She has adapted the house to provide stimulating play areas and an exciting outside area.

Our findings

The premises are safe and secure. Risk assessments are comprehensive and cover all areas of the premises and numerous activities such as outings. A health and safety policy outlines how the service operates in a safe manner and includes the use of car seats and maintenance of resources. The main door to the house is kept locked with the keys close to hand in an emergency. Safety gates are in place to prevent children accessing certain areas unsupervised. The premises has recently been refurbished including an extension and building certificates including building control, gas safety checks, electrical testing certificates are in place. Discussion with the child minder and observation of practice showed that she takes her responsibilities to keep children safe robustly by providing suitable safety measures and the right amount of supervision.

Children are provided with an indoor play space which is decorated to an exceptionally high standard and it is child centred and very welcoming. The child minder showed that she understands the importance of utilising the outdoor play space to promote children's development which is used regularly by children. Both the indoor and outdoor facilities provide an interesting and engaging environment for children's play and learning. Activities are organised in zoned areas according to Flying Start principles, with each area providing an excellent variety of opportunities to develop children's skills whilst maintaining the feel of a homely environment. The bathroom area was adapted for use by children and was well maintained, fresh and clean. The home benefits from good natural light and the environment is very welcoming and attractive.

All children have access to a wide range of good quality, developmentally appropriate play and learning resources, indoors and outdoors. These are available in sufficient quantity to ensure children have excellent variety and choice. We saw that all resources are very clean and well maintained. The child minder told us that she carries out a deep clean of all toys and resources with an appropriate disinfectant. We saw children play with a variety of appropriate toys and equipment which promotes their all-round development. The indoor and outdoor areas were well resourced with a range of activities including puzzles, sensory toys, multi-cultural toys, dressing up, a home corner, construction toys, creative resources

and a chalk board, which the children were seen to enjoy using. There was also a very good range of reading materials available to cater for all age groups and interests.

4. Leadership and Management

Excellent

Summary

The childminder is very professional in her approach and delivers a high quality service to parents and children. The child minder is motivated and committed to increase her knowledge and skills and undertakes extensive training. She is reflective and has made changes to her service in line with her continual learning development and training. She evaluates all aspects of her service effectively. Partnerships with parents are strong and they receive good information about the service.

Our findings

The child minder has a vision for the service and this is shared in her Statement of Purpose. She has a very good understanding of current best practice relevant to the children in her care. All the policies and procedures for the service are detailed and they are regularly reviewed and when updated new versions are shared with the parents. We saw that parents are provided with information prior to their children starting at the service including policies and procedures so they could make an informed choice about using the service. We looked at a sample of records including registers, children's records and accident forms which were all completed appropriately. The children's contracts were up to date and records were well maintained in respect of the children. The child minder has updated her records to reflect new legislation such as Prevent and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

The child minder has high expectations of herself and her child minding business. She is reflective and outlined a number of the improvements she has made since the registration. She seeks feedback on her own practice in order to positively benefit her service. The child minder explained that she wanted to continually improve their service and understood the importance of self-evaluation in achieving this. She said that she welcomed feedback and used this to plan for future improvements. She has completed her first Quality of Care report following her first year of service which included who has contributed to the review, any issues raised, how improvements will be made and how this will benefit the children.

The child minder is very well qualified and has a number of years' experience working with young children. Observations showed she managed her time well and had organised resources effectively to support seamless play opportunities for children. Registers show that she operates within the conditions of her registration. There are good contingency plans in place in the event of an emergency, which are shared with parents, and effective systems are in place to give parents ample notice of plans such as annual leave. She works closely with parents so she can meet their changing childcare needs where possible and provide a flexible service. The child minder and her husband have current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to confirm their suitability.

The child minder works well with parents. The child minder provides parents and carers with all the relevant information needed to make informed choices about the care of their child. She keeps parents very well informed about all aspects of her child minding service and encourages them to be active partners in their children's well-being, development and learning. The child minder explained that she was very flexible and that children could access settling in sessions for as long as was needed. The parents are provided with daily written and oral feedback and ongoing progress updates about their children from the child minder.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

None

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection looking at all aspects of the service, undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector visited the service over two days. We used the following methods to gather evidence for this report:

- We considered what we already knew about the service;
- we observed activities and interactions between the child minder and children present;
- we looked at a wide range of records and documents including contracts, the statement of purpose, children's records and daily diaries, records of attendance and policies and procedures;
- we viewed the parts of the premises used for child minding and looked at the safety measures in place;
- we spoke with the child minder about how she ran the service and her plans for the future and
- our findings were fed back to the child minder following the inspection.

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	Sarah Baker
Registered maximum number of places	8
Age range of children	Birth to 12 years
Opening hours	7:30am-5:30pm Monday to Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First Inspection Post Registration
Dates of this inspection visits	26 June and 1 July 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
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 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. We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care.'
Additional Information: None	

Date Published 23/08/2019