



# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Deborah Newman**

**Barry**



**Date Inspection Completed**

07/10/2019

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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 was registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in December 2018. She provides home based child care for up to six children under 12 years old. She operates from Monday to Friday providing a flexible service to meet the needs of families including school holidays. She lives in Barry and provides an English language service with some Welsh used within conversation and activities.

## Summary

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

### 1. Overall assessment

The child minder provides a good, consistent, caring and cheerful 'home from home' service. She gives children plenty of choice in their activities and encourages them to share their views and do things for themselves. Children are happy and enjoy their time with her; she knows the children well and affection is freely given. They have fun with her while she promotes their play, learning and development and children benefit from a healthy lifestyle. The child minder provides a safe and child friendly environment and children have access to a good range of experiences and resources. She keeps her training up to date and undertakes wider learning opportunities for her professional development. She keeps and uses an effective range of policies and procedures to support her business.

### 2. Improvements

This is the first inspection since registration.

### 3. Requirements and recommendations

We made some recommendations to develop the service and improve outcomes for children. These included some minor revision to paperwork noted within this report.

# 1. Well-being

Good

## Summary

Children's views are valued by the child minder and they have lots of free choice in their play. They are made to feel welcome and at home and have formed good relationships with her and each other. They are able to develop their self-help skills and undertake activities which build their confidence and self-esteem. Children enjoy a variety of activities both at the child minder's home and on outings in the wider community during school holidays.

## Our findings

Children make choices about their activities and are encouraged to express their views. We saw children choosing their activities such as painting their own imaginative pictures and then deciding to play with playdough. They talked about how to remove the playdough from the presses, saying "Stuck" and a child said "I can dig it out with this [toy] knife". An older child told us they particularly like playing football in the nearby park while here.

Children make themselves very much at home. They are settled and relaxed in their care because the child minder knows them well and has developed good bonds of affection with them in a relatively short time. We observed children all receive warm close attention and frequent praise for their efforts.

Children enjoy each other's company in this service and we saw them learning to share and take turns. A younger child excitedly showed us their autumn display, exploring things they had found while out on walks. These included conkers, acorns and pinecones, pieces of bark, fallen leaves and twigs. They pointed to pictures, naming a squirrel and hedgehog. Older children wanted to find out what was inside conkers and devised ways to open them.

Children are familiar with their surroundings and know where things are and can be independent in their play. Children help tidy toys away at the change of an activity and younger children are learning to put on their own shoes before going out. They develop concentration skills in focused activities and themed crafts. They receive appropriate support from the child minder, such as help with personal care. Children are supported in a non-intrusive manner as they use different resources and play spaces, enabling them to feel trusted and take appropriate responsibility.

## **2. Care and Development**

**Good**

### **Summary**

The child minder uses her child care qualifications and experience gained prior to registration to inform her practice while applying a professional and 'family style' approach to her service. The child minder treats children with warmth and respect and has realistic expectations of them. Good routines for hygiene and safety are in place. The child minder is aware of how children in her care are developing and is able to plan for their individual needs effectively. She provides activities that she knows the children will engage with and will promote their learning and development.

### **Our findings**

Children benefit from good procedures that the child minder uses to keep children safe and healthy. She is able to identify children at risk and has the confidence to follow appropriate safeguarding procedures. The child minder has completed Paediatric First Aid training. She understands the requirement to renew the Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate for herself and her son as needed. She is registered with the local authority in terms of safe food provision. The child minder provides all snacks, cooked meals and drinks of water for children. Children benefit from a healthy eating approach which takes account of any individual dietary requirements. Effective accident, incident and medication recording systems are all in place. The child minder is clear about what action to take in the event of an emergency and maintains relevant insurances and an annual gas safety certificate for her home.

The child minder is cheerful and clear with children, explaining next steps as needed. She described her weekly routine which includes child-led free play opportunities at home and sociable experiences in the local community. These include visits to the beach, parks and woodland areas. We were told about running through fallen leaves and picking blackberries and eating them. This led to a discussion about the weather and children helped name the day of the week and describe the weather as 'cloudy and rainy'.

The child minder arranges for outdoor activities every day as well as walking to and from nursery and school. The child minder keeps notes about younger children's care which she shares with parents verbally. She also records observations of their progress and development although they are not kept in files for each individual child. She plans for children's next steps in play and learning, but does not make formal notes of how she might do this. She plans activities on a seasonal basis which meet the outcomes of the Foundation Phase, the Education Framework in Wales.

### **3. Environment**

**Good**

#### **Summary**

The child minder maintains good systems and routines to ensure that her home is clean, safe, secure and child friendly. Children are given a good range of resources and experiences that support and enhance their learning and development. The child minder provides an environment in which children can learn, play and relax safely and takes steps to minimise risks to children, while enabling them to develop their independence.

#### **Our findings**

Children benefit from care in a clean, safe and secure environment. The child minder carries out a daily visual risk assessment throughout the play space. This is in addition to the comprehensive and effective set of written risk assessments, including fire safety. We were told that planned regular deep cleaning of the premises and resources takes place. We saw the first aid kit and fire blanket available in the kitchen and a stairgate in place. Clean, hygienically maintained toilet and hand wash facilities are on the first floor which children use with support or independently depending on their age and stage of development. There are appropriate arrangements in place to maintain confidentiality within the service which is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). There is an e-safety policy and procedure which covers children's access to, and use of, the internet and computer games. All relevant parental consents are in place for children who may attend community group sessions and any outings with the child minder.

The child minder's home is welcoming and warm. It is furnished comfortably and enables children to relax, play and do many things for themselves. The main play spaces are a playroom and open plan kitchen and dining area and the family living room for quiet activities. Babies' sleeps are usually in a lie back pushchair on the ground floor. There is currently no use of the garden to provide opportunities for some outdoor messy play or planting. We saw children enjoying some contact with the family's two dogs and cats and there is an appropriate pet policy in place.

We saw children helping themselves to toys and resources such as vehicles, construction toys, books, small world and home corner and role play equipment. The child minder holds a diploma in Welsh learning and is comfortable using Welsh within daily activities and books. She told us she has expanded her resources since she started her business earlier this year to meet children's individual needs and changing interests.

## 4. Leadership and Management

Good

### Summary

The child minder runs her service with good procedures in place so that it meets the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care (NMS) and relevant regulations. She has a formal child care qualification and experience working in a nursery and school (including in a Welsh language school) . She looks for additional training opportunities to ensure that outcomes for children are positive.

### Our findings

The child minder is organised and keeps her paperwork in a clear and accessible system. Parents are given the information they need, although the statement of purpose does not contain CIW's contact details. Policies and procedures for the service are effective and shared with parents, usually via email. The complaints procedure states that older children are encouraged to voice any concerns. It does not specify how they might do it, although the child minder currently cares only for children under eight years of age.

Children's outcomes are enhanced because the child minder takes a reflective approach to her work and is planning the first annual review of her service. She is clear about what it will cover and will include parents' and children's views. She has set herself some achievable targets for improving her service in the near future. These include making the garden suitable for children's use. The child minder is currently completing training on language and literacy in the early years.

Parents are given verbal and written information about their child's activities, food and personal care during the day and the child minder works closely with them to ensure their children's needs are met. We observed a relaxed and chatty handover at the end of the day, which included a teacher's message about a child's day in school. The child minder offers the Welsh Government's 30 hours free child care to families. We spoke to parents who were clearly happy with the service they and their children receive, with comments such as *"Amazing. We had changed child care three times and Deborah is the best. More professional and always available."*



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

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

None

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

We made the following recommendations:

- Include CIW's contact details in the statement of purpose; and
- Consider using individual books for observations of children's progress and record plans of next steps for their play and learning.

## 6. How we undertook this inspection

This inspection was announced at very short notice and undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. The inspector visited the service for approximately four and a half hours. We gave feedback of our findings to the child minder at the end of the visit. There were three children under eight years of age present during the inspection. Evidence for the report was gathered using the following methodology:

- We looked at the range of paperwork the child minder keeps about her service – including policies and procedures, risk assessments, contracts, children’s records, accident records and safety certificates;
- we observed the children interacting with the child minder, each other and choosing their activities;
- we spoke with children and their parents; and
- we spoke with the child minder about how she runs her service and her plans for the future.

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	Deborah Newman
Registered maximum number of places	6
Age range of children	Under 12 years
Opening hours	7.30 – 17.30 five days a week including school holidays
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection since registration
Dates of this inspection visit	07 October 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?	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:	

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