



# Inspection Report

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**Amlwch**



**Date Inspection Completed**

10/12/2020

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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 service since registration.
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	The service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

## **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. We spent a short period on an outing with the child minder, to observe care practice and interactions between the child minder and the children in her care. We requested information from the child minder and discussed these, as well as viewing the areas used by children and some interactions, during a virtual meeting.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time at the service. They are confident to communicate their needs to the child minder and know they will be listened to. The child minder is kind and speaks with children in a warm and nurturing manner. She is aware of her responsibilities in keeping children safe and healthy and confident in the procedures she must follow in order to do this. She plans a range of interesting activities, which will aid children's learning and development. The child minder ensures the premises, toys and resources are clean and well-maintained. Hazards and risks are monitored and managed effectively. The child minder manages her service well and understands her regulatory responsibilities. She ensures documents and suitability checks are kept up to date and that parents are kept well informed about their children's development and of any changes to the service.

## Well-being

Children are settled, comfortable and happy. They move around the play room freely and can choose from toys and activities on offer as they are stored within their reach. They are confident to ask for support when they need it, for example if they need help to put on dressing up clothes or to take out more toys.

Children have formed a warm relationship with the child minder and are eager to play and chat with her. They are enthusiastic to learn about the world around them and are supported to follow their interests. They happily chatted about the ducks and trees whilst out on a walk and were learning to count and name colours. They play alongside one another well and show genuine interest in each other's achievements. For example, while dropping sticks into the river to see whose stick finished the race first the children cheered each other on and congratulated the child whose stick finished first.

Children are confident to approach the child minder for comfort, and are provided with positive words of encouragement and hugs when needed. For example, they show the child minder if they have hurt themselves and are responded to warmly.

Children have a good range of experiences and are able to spend time outdoors. They have regular trips to local playgrounds, beaches and woodland walks where they have opportunities to develop physically. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves, such as tidying up at the end of activities and putting on their own shoes and coats. This helps them to gain confidence and aids their independence.

## Care and Development

The child minder understands her responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She has a detailed safeguarding policy in place and is aware of the correct steps to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. She ensures regular safety checks take place, for example fire drills, and these are recorded appropriately. The child minder accurately records all accidents and provided a sample of completed forms. Parents are asked to provide meals for their children, and the child minder provides morning and afternoon snacks which consist of fruit and biscuits. We drew the child minder's attention to the Food and Nutrition for Childcare Settings Best Practice Guidance, which will provide more ideas for healthier snacks.

The child minder has built positive relationships with the children in her care. She is kind and friendly and deals with any unwanted behaviour calmly and fairly. She is careful to explain to children why their behaviour is unacceptable, in a way in which they understand. For example, when a child wanted to climb on top of a wall while out on a walk she clearly explained to them why that might be dangerous and the child understood why they should not do this.

The child minder plans a range of activities that are interesting and help them to learn and develop their skills. She encourages children to learn new words during activities and extends their play by asking questions. For example, during the walk she encouraged children to describe the trees and branches that had interested them and introduced new words they could use to describe them. The child minder ensures parents are kept up to date on their children's progress and development by filling out daily diaries and sending regular text messages and photographs.

## Environment

The child minder provides a clean and safe environment for children. Children have use of a dedicated play room with a range of age appropriate toys and resources. Risk assessments and safety checklists are completed and reviewed regularly and a dedicated risk assessment and policy is in place outlining the additional procedures the child minder has put into place to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19.

Toys and games are stored in labelled boxes so that children are able to see what is available and ask for toys of their choice. These are stored at low level so children can reach them independently. Books are stored in a low box, with books that complimented the current theme on display on the windowsill, meaning children can help themselves to them when they want to read them.

The child minder told us she rotates toys regularly in order to ensure children remain interested. She also told us she cleans toys at the end of each day, and completes a deep clean every week, although this is not recorded.

## Leadership and Management

The child minder understands her role and regulatory responsibilities and provides a range of policies to enable her to run her service safely and effectively. These policies are clear, informative and updated regularly. The statement of purpose gives a clear and accurate description of the service offered, providing parents with plenty of information to make an informed choice.

The child minder regularly seeks feedback from parents and outlines planned improvements within a detailed annual quality of care review report. Feedback provided by parents was positive with only one suggestion for improvement, which was swiftly actioned by the child minder. In addition, the child minder identifies her own areas for improvement and works towards these throughout the year.

The child minder ensures that her own as well as household members Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check are valid and up to date. Records provided showed that the child minder gathers all required information about children prior to them attending. This allows her to plan effectively to meet children's individual needs.

Parents we spoke with told us they were very happy with the service. They told us information was shared regularly about their child's development and about any changes to the service. They also said the child minder was very approachable and helpful with any queries they had.



**Areas for improvement and action at the previous inspection**

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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**Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1: The child minder should consider providing healthier alternatives to biscuits as a snack.

R2: The child minder should consider keeping a record of when toys and resources are cleaned.

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