



Inspection Report

Catrin Howells

Cardigan

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



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11/05/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	8
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection post registration
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	Yes

Summary

Children feel secure, happy, and comfortable at this setting. They are active and curious learners and they engage in their play based activities. The children have formed positive relationships with the child minder. The setting has detailed policies and procedures, which promote the children's well-being. The atmosphere is caring and the child minder meets children's individual needs successfully. Children receive care in a safe, clean and secure environment. There is lots of space and plenty of facilities to encourage children to play and learn. Toys and play equipment are age appropriate and in good condition. The setting is welcoming and friendly. The child minder manages the setting effectively and complies with CIW regulations. The statement of purpose is clear and provides an accurate picture of the service. The child minder has high expectations and shares her values about learning and behaviour with the children and her assistant. The child minder works well with parents to give them information about the service and the children's well-being and care.

Well-being

The children are confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are considered by the child minder. The children's opinions and interests are valued and acted upon. Children play happily in the play area choosing their own toys from the toy box. The children ask to play with the doll and the child minder is very accommodating and plays alongside the children.

The children are active and express enthusiasm and enjoyment. We saw that the children were excited to play outside and expressed that they wanted to play with the football. They have a sense of belonging, forming relationships and are familiar with routines. We saw that the children were comfortable in the care of the child minder. During the nappy changing, the children helped to get the equipment out and then proceeded to help change the nappy on the doll.

Interactions between the children and the child minder are consistently good and children co-operate well with the child minder. We heard the children attempting to repeat words and phrases that the child minder had used. The children were also attempting to learn some basic Welsh words and phrases from the child minder. The children were polite and respectful.

The children have many opportunities to initiate their own play and to influence their tasks and activities. The children sustained their interest in playing with the football for a period of time, rolling the football down the bank and trying to repeat "*ready, steady, go*" before deciding that they would prefer to play with the chalks and made attempts at mark making on the fence. The children receive support and encouragement by the child minder to help them to draw pictures. The children had a good feeling of achievement and high self-esteem.

Children have many opportunities to develop their independence skills enabling them to do things for themselves successfully. The children sat at high chairs next to the dinner table and independently picked what they wanted to eat from their snack. We saw the children moving around the setting freely and returning to the toy box when they wanted something new to play with. The children have a strong voice, enjoy their play and learning and their well-being is very well promoted.

Care and Development

The child minder has a good behaviour management policy, which she implements and follows consistently. The child minder is calm and caring at all times and communicates with the children clearly. The child minder praises the children consistently and is a positive role model. The child minder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder confirmed she had no children with specific health care needs, but has a good awareness of her medication policy. She has written permissions from parents for a variety of situations, including outings, emergency medical treatment and application of sun cream. The child minder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to safeguard and protect children. She had a thorough understanding of the processes when responding to child protection scenarios.

The child minder has implemented thorough cleaning and good hygiene practices and follows a daily and weekly cleaning schedule. During nappy changing, the child minder thoroughly implemented her nappy changing policy, wearing gloves and an apron throughout. The child minder wiped down the changing mat with anti-bacterial wipes before and after use. The child minder makes sure that the children are aware of the need for basic hygiene routines and ensures that they wash their hands before and after eating their snack. The child minder frequently wipes the children's noses and disposes of tissues safely.

The child minder has sound knowledge of child development and is confident to discuss children's development with parents. She has started planning for the next steps and is beginning to develop a method for monitoring children's progress. The child minder keeps parents fully informed about their child. She reassures and supports children in activities and routines, and encourages their independence. The child minder takes children to the local beach and park. Due to Covid 19, children are currently not attending playgroups but under normal circumstances, the child minder would take the children to the local Welsh language group.

The child minder is kind and caring. The child minder listens and respects children's views. The child minder demonstrates warmth and kindness, using praise and encouragement such as '*good girl*' and '*well done*'. She promotes good manners well. We saw the child minder listening attentively to the stories of the children demonstrating enthusiasm in what they were sharing. We heard the child minder encourage the children and help them to count and learn their colours.

Environment

The child minder's home is cosy, warm and inviting. The environment is well maintained. The child minder has effective and accurate risk assessments, which she regularly reviews. The child minder informed us that she completes and records fire drills regularly. The child minder has emergency procedures in place including emergency medical consent forms for all the children. The child minder ensures that the environment is suitably safe. For example, she keeps the front door secure, with a locking system and ensures that safety checks are completed such, as boiler checks. She has completed written risk assessments for the indoor environment, outings and visits, and a separate document to reflect current covid-19 practices.

The child minder has good indoor play space for the children to move freely. The child minder has organised the environment well so that it provides a good range of play opportunities for the children. She provides an environment that supports children's independence and provides suitable play activities. The children have access to some resources from the toy box, which is stored away in the playroom. There was a wide variety of toys stored in appropriate boxes such as musical instruments, chalkboards, sensory toys, dinosaurs, animals, and numerous books. Currently the children do not freely access these due to the pandemic, in order to ensure thorough cleaning after use.

The outdoor area is currently undergoing further development to ensure its suitability and practicality. The main grassed area of the outdoor environment where children play is accessed by a steep set of steps. The child minder has ensured the safety of the children playing in this area by erecting a fence and a gate around the perimeter of the grassed area. During our visit, the child minder helped the children up the steps and observed them closely. In the garden, the children had a choice to play with including, a large slide, mud kitchen, diggers, balls and tractors. The child minder ensures that they use the outdoor play space as often as possible.

Leadership and Management

The child minder has a definite vision for the setting. The child minder has a statement of purpose, which explains her child minding service and accurately reflects the service provided. The child minder ensures that she complies with relevant regulations and meets the National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare (NMS). She is knowledgeable on her regulatory responsibilities. The child minder has all relevant paperwork required. For example, on our visit, she had complete and accurate records of children's attendance and personal information. The child minder has public liability insurance and appropriate vehicle documents in place. She has a good understanding of her role in relation to data protection, confidentiality and data retention and ensures there are valid Disclosure and Barring Service checks in place for all household members. She has effective policies in place and we saw that these were implemented in practice. Discussion with the child minder showed she was open to new ideas and embraced the need for continuous improvement. Her understanding of safeguarding and child protection was sound and she has completed the 'Prevent Duty' training. The child minder ensures suitable leadership and management of her setting.

The child minder has a system for actively implementing self-evaluation. She reviews the quality of care annually. However, but needs to consider parents and children's views. Relevant questionnaires have been produced and the child minder informed us that these will be distributed when the parents and children have had time to settle back into the routine of attending the setting regularly. The child minder has positive partnerships with parents. Parents that we spoke to confirmed that they are very happy with the care given *"Catrin is kind, patient and conscientious. She takes the time to talk me through what my child has done during her session each time. I have recommended her to several of my friends."* The child minder has a good understanding of her responsibilities to promote the Welsh language. She meets the Active Offer of the Welsh language. During our visit, we heard the Welsh language being used continuously. The child minder informed us that under normal circumstances she would often take the children to Welsh language playgroups. She also explained to us that she intends on investing in more play equipment that will help develop the children's Welsh language skills such as toys that play Welsh language music.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 Continue to develop the outside environment;

R2 Continue to develop and embed methods used to record forward planning and the monitoring of children's progress.

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 priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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