



Childcare Inspection Report on

Iona Evans

Pwllheli

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

22/10/2019

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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

Iona Evans operates her child minding service from her family home in Llaniestyn, Gwynedd. The service is registered to provide care for a maximum of 10 children up to the age of 12 years. The opening hours are Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm. The service offers the Welsh Government's 'Active Offer' and operates through the medium of Welsh. The service also provides the Welsh Government's 'Childcare Offer'.

Summary

Theme	Rating
Well-being	Adequate
Care and Development	Adequate
Environment	Adequate
Leadership and Management	Adequate

Overall assessment.

Children enjoy exploring their play area freely, they make choices and approach the child minder with ease to make requests. The child minder has a warm and friendly approach to care giving. The indoor environment is spacious and facilities are suitable for the needs of children. The outdoor environment consists of an enclosed courtyard. Surrounding play areas are being developed and will provide children with additional play opportunities in future. The child minder manages the service appropriately but some areas require improvement.

1. Improvements

This is the first inspection since registration.

The child minder has addressed the recommendations from the registration report and secured the under stairs cupboard door. The log burner has been secured and surrounded with a fireguard. Television area has been made safe by tidying the cables and restricting children's access. An enclosed outdoor play area has been created by fencing the courtyard area. The child minder confirmed the trampoline is not in use for minded children and the porch area is not used as a play room as previously mentioned at registration.

The child minder informed us she has been successful in her 'Childcare Offer' grant application to gain funding to develop the outdoor play environment.

2. Requirements and recommendations

We have advised the child minder that improvements are needed in relation to infection control procedures during nappy changing (regulation 25 (b)) in order to fully meet the legal requirements. A notice has not been issued on this occasion, as there was no immediate or significant impact for children using the service. We expect the child minder to take action to rectify this and it will be followed up at the next inspection.

We made recommendations in relation to developing children's independence, building the child minder's knowledge of individual medical conditions and nutritionally balanced meals and improving quality of resources.

1. Well-being

Adequate

Summary

Children enjoy making choices to follow their own interests suitably. They approach the child minder confidently to make requests. Children have some opportunities to do things for themselves.

Our findings

Children were confident to make requests and their wants; moods and needs were generally considered. For example, when a child made a non-verbal request to paint a picture, the child minder recognised what the child wanted and responded to this in a timely manner. Paint sticks were chosen appropriately and children freely created pictures relating to autumn.

During nappy changing, a child was made to feel relaxed and comfortable and as a result they babbled contentedly with the child minder. Children approached the child minder with ease for comfort and enjoyed holding her hand as they walked around the play area to find the toy of their choice. When a child became unsettled, they chose to sit on the child minder's knee to be comforted. This made the child feel safe and helped them to settle.

Children felt good about themselves, as a result of the positive language used and the praise received. A child learnt to take turns well as they played alongside the child minder, finding the different wooden shaped jungle animals to place in the jigsaw.

Children engaged in play-based activities and sustained interest as they looked through a choice of books appropriately. They enjoyed turning the pages, feeling the tactile pictures and became excited to see the picture of the cat named 'Grwndi'. Children build towers with star shaped bricks carefully and this developed their curiosity suitably. For instance, during this play they rolled a small wooden car on top of the bricks to see what would happen with interest.

Children enjoyed snack and meal times and were learning to self-feed well. During hand washing they were unable to reach the soap dispenser and taps as there was no step to aid their independence. Children were confident to explore their play area freely, for example, a child happily pushed a pink pram around the play room, demonstrating to the child minder how they were doing it by themselves.

2. Care and Development

Adequate

Summary

The child minder has a satisfactory understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. She manages interactions with warmth and positivity. The child minder organises suitable activities and responds to children's needs appropriately.

Our findings

The child minder had completed current training in paediatric first aid and safeguarding. When asked about the procedures she would take if concerned about a child in her care, she responded in line with her service's child protection policy appropriately. The child minder had collated information about children's medical conditions and allergies but when asked about how she would respond to some conditions she was not confident on what procedures to take.

The child minder offered healthy snacks and drinking water was readily available to keep children hydrated. She was not aware of the Welsh Government's food and nutrition guidance for child care providers to make sure lunch time meals were nutritionally balanced. The child minder did not have a sound understanding of cross infection control risks. For instance, when we observed the child minder changing a child's nappy the correct procedures were not being implemented to meet requirements. She presented an accident and incident book but told us, no accidents or incidents had occurred at her service to be recorded. Fire drills had been conducted at appropriate intervals and these were recorded.

The child minder had a warm and friendly approach to care giving. She provided comfort to children when needed appropriately. The child minder had a basic understanding of positive behaviour management strategies and did not have a policy on this subject to be able to refer to, when needed, in line with requirements. However, since this inspection the child minder has addressed this matter and a suitable policy has been submitted.

The child minder promoted children's achievements with positive language and gave clear instructions about the differences between right and wrong actions suitably. The child minder had attended foundation phase curriculum training in March 2019 and she had implemented some of the principles in organising defined learning areas well. She did not plan for activities and told us she responds to what children request on the day and this was seen during our visit. The child minder organised a creative activity and spoke about the colours of the autumn leaves on the tree and about the hedgehogs living in the woodland to develop children's interest positively.

The child minder developed children's language skills appropriately, for example, during lunchtime she sat with children and raised their awareness further to what they could see out of the window commenting on the branches of a tree and the colours of nature in the nearby woodland. When completing a puzzle activity the child minder developed the child's counting skills suitably through asking them to count the different animal wooden pieces. Photographs of children showed them in a variety of activities, for instance, attending a soft play centre, immersing their hands into soapy suds and having a picnic. The child minder made observations on the child's progress acceptably and shared this with parents through a communication book to keep them informed appropriately.

3. Environment

Adequate

Summary

The child minder makes sure the environment is generally safe. The areas are spacious and facilities meet the needs of children suitably. Toys and equipment are appropriate for the age ranges of children being cared for. Resources are of adequate quality.

Our findings

The child minder had satisfactory measures in place to ensure the environment was generally safe and secure. The child minder checked our identity and our attendance was recorded in a visitor's book. The environment was reasonably maintained indoors and outdoors. Most of the risk assessments had been completed. The child minder told us she would address the matter accordingly and has done so by submitting the required documents and securing the under stairs cupboard door. A food standards agency assessment had been conducted in December 2018 and no matters were raised. The child minder made sure the public liability insurance and vehicle documents were up to date.

The indoor environment was spacious and suitable for the needs of children. However, room temperatures were below the recommended 18 degrees centigrade. We discussed this with the child minder and she put the heating on which helped to maintain a consistent temperature throughout the day. Storage areas were at a low level, meaning children could access them easily. However, some of the boxes were overfilled, required tidying up and covered in material making it difficult for a child to recognise what was inside. There was a designated area to store a child's personal items and this created a sense of belonging.

Toys, equipment and resources were suitable for the age ranges of children and were mostly of adequate condition. However, some of the soft toys required washing and we asked the child minder to remove the broken outdoor toys and ride along vehicles from the enclosed court yard, which she did. There was a lack of re-cycled commercial household goods and natural materials to help children develop their imaginary and sensory skills. Some toys reflected our wider society to support children to learn about the world around them. There was a range of books in Welsh and English and these were placed in different areas of the play environment to encourage children to read them. Bean bags and soft cushions were clean and suitable for children to relax on and rest. The child minder provided indoor pop up tents and tunnels to help develop children's physical skills suitably.

4. Leadership and Management

Adequate

Summary

The child minder manages the service appropriately but improvements are necessary to meet requirements. She has a suitable system to evaluate the service and is working towards writing a report reviewing the quality of care. The child minder manages resources acceptably and is building partnerships with parents and community positively.

Our findings

The child minder had ensured the statement of purpose provided an accurate picture of what the service offered and informed parents about the care provided. Most policies and procedures were in place and these were generally implemented suitably. However, some areas required improvement such as nappy changing procedures. The child minder had a sound understanding of her responsibilities to promote the Welsh language and this was demonstrated through the implementation of the Welsh Government 'Active Offer'. The child minder evaluated the service appropriately and was currently working towards drawing on these comments to write a report reviewing the quality of care. This will help her to identify what the service does well, what requires improvement and the action required to ensure better outcomes for children is achieved.

The child minders own enhanced criminal record certificate as well as other household members over the age of 16 years were current. The child minder's qualifications was suitable for the age ranges cared for. She told us she had been successful in gaining a grant to purchase toys and equipment to improve the outdoor play area and was in the process of purchasing resources. We inspected children's individual records and these contained the required information.

The child minder showed us how she keeps parents informed about their child during the day, through posting photographs and messages on social media and completing a communication book at the request of the parent. The child minder promoted engagement in the local community, taking children on walks and attending parent / carer toddler groups to enhance children's social skills and develop their experiences appropriately.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

The child minder should consider:

- Providing worthwhile opportunities for children to develop their independence;
- building her knowledge about the medical conditions of children in her care;
- familiarising herself with the Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance for child care providers and developing her knowledge about nutritionally balanced meals and
- improving the quality of resources to enrich children's play and learning.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full, partly-announced inspection as part of our schedule of inspections. One inspector visited the service on Monday 22 October 2019 from 9:45 am – 1:05 pm and from 1:30 pm – 2:05 pm.

We:

- Inspected a sample of documentation, policies and two children's individual records;
- observed practice and completed observations to capture evidence of children's engagement and the care being provided by the child minder;
- inspected the areas used, toys and resources;
- spoke with children and child minder and
- provided feedback to the child minder.

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	Iona Evans
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	Up to 12 years
Opening hours	Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm
Operating Language of the service	Welsh
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection since registration on 17 December 2018
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	22 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 provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It provides a service that anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use the service.
Additional Information:	

Date Published 20/12/2019