



Inspection Report

Sarah Thomas

Cardiff



Date Inspection Completed

19/04/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	6
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First Inspection Post Registration
Is this a Flying Start 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 children who use, or intend to use the service. We recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh Language in social care.'

Summary

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme, in full'

Children are happy and feel safe and secure at the setting. They are very fond of the child minder and enjoy playing with their friends at her home. Children are encouraged to express themselves and speak freely. They have lots of fun playing with an extensive range of toys and resources which helps them to learn. The child minder keeps the children safe and healthy and there are a good range of policies and procedures in place to support her business. The home is clean and safe, indoors and outside, with sufficient space and facilities to meet the needs of children. The child minder understands the importance of working with parents to make decisions about their child's well-being. She keeps parents well informed by text, email and daily feedback at pick up and drop off time.

Well-being

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.

Children are very happy, relaxed and feel safe in the child minder's care. They have access to a large quantity of interesting activities and resources which helps them learn and develop new skills. The children are happy to share their ideas with the child minder and know that they will be valued and listen to. For example, they are excited to tell the child minder that they would like to go to Disney World on a bus or to the big castle in Cardiff. They are delighted that the childminder shares their excitement about going to the castle.

Children are very familiar with the routines in the child minder's home which gives them a sense of security and belonging. Their home life and family are valued by the childminder. For example, children were keen to tell the child minder about the colour of their father's van with the red dragon on the side as they chose the crayons for their craft activity. They are learning how to do things for themselves including tidying up and putting on their coats and shoes. They do this independently with some oversight and direction by the child minder. They are adapting well to new routines, which have been implemented by the child minder due to the COVID -19 pandemic. For example, they joined in with the hand washing and sanitising routine which they were obviously familiar with.

Children are encouraged to be kind, share and listen to their friends. They are treated with respect by the childminder who has a realistic expectations of their behaviour and developmental stage. Kindness, good manners and politeness are celebrated by the childminder. The children are delighted when they have praise from the child minder.

The children are interested and excited by the activities at the child minder's home. They are able to sit and spend time at a table or on the floor, happily making puzzles or completing literacy games. For example, the children were thrilled when they successfully found the letters to help them spell out their names. They are also free to move around the playroom and choose different activities such as the cars and garage.

Care and Development

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.

The child minder follows a set of clear policies and procedures to ensure that she keeps children safe and healthy. The child minder has a suitable safeguarding policy in place and is confident in her procedures for dealing with safeguarding matters although her safeguarding training is not up to date. The policy does not include details on 'Prevent' duty; a government strategy to protect children from extremism and radicalisation. The child minder ensures that she has up to date knowledge and training of first aid. This allows her to be confident in her procedures for dealing with accidents, incidents and administration of prescribed medication. She completes important records such as accident, incident and medication forms appropriately. The medication policy does not currently include details of the procedure that she will follow if a child became unwell unexpectedly. The child minder has developed a specific COVID -19 policy and risk assessment and has good procedures to protect children during the current pandemic. She ensures appropriate hygiene routines are in place to promote children's health, including encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times.

The child minder offers healthy meals and snacks which the children enjoy. She knows the children's individual food preferences and is able to meet the needs of specific dietary requirements because she invests in training. Her menu does not provide parents with information on potential food allergens.

The child minder ensures that she maintains a happy and calm atmosphere in her home. As a qualified teaching assistant the child minder is very experienced and has a good understanding of child development and how this affects children's behaviour. She is confident and uses positive strategies to promote good behaviour effectively.

Environment

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.

The child minder has developed a clear set of risk assessments and procedures to ensure the indoor and outdoor environment are safe and secure for children. She identifies and where possible reduces or eliminates, risks to children's safety. For example; if any resources get damaged or are no longer fit for use, the child minder will remove and replace if needed, including the child size trampolines. The child minder follows current best practice guidance thoroughly when cleaning her home and resources to protect children from the risk of COVID 19. She ensures the maintenance checks for the home and appliances are up to date.

The child minder has organised the play environment well so that children can access a very good range of exciting, well maintained resources with ease. Resource storage boxes are currently not labelled. There is a garden area available for children to enjoy physical play. There are child sized furniture available for children to complete table top activities or eat their snacks.

Leadership and Management

This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.

The child minder manages her service very well and aims to improve her skills and the quality of the service she provides. She has developed a good range of policies and procedures and has a clear vision for her service. For example, details of the child minding service she offers to parents and children are clearly outlined in the statement of purpose. She agrees contracts with parents and has a suitable procedure for obtaining permissions for activities such as taking children on trips and accessing emergency medical treatment

The child minder manages her time well and is helped by her partner as an assistant. She maintains appropriate security checks for persons over the age of sixteen years living at her home in order to safeguard children. She understands the importance of keeping up to date with best practice and the need to refresh her training and skills regularly.

The child minder uses feedback from parents and children successfully to help her evaluate the quality of her service and plan for its development. She works with parents closely to ensure that children experience the support required to meet their individual needs. She keeps parents well informed and stays in contact by phone, text or email to provide feedback on the well-being of their child.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

- R1. Update safeguarding training and include details of prevent duty in the policy.
- R2. Label storage for resources so that children can see what is available and access independently.
- R3. Provide parents with information on possible food allergens in meals supplied.
- R4. Update the medication policy with information of procedure in the event of a child becoming unwell at the service.

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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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

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