



Inspection Report

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Mold



Date Inspection Completed

14/04/2021

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About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	5
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	Post registration inspection
Is this a Flying Start service?	
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 the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care'.

<u>Well-being</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Care and Development</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Environment</u>	No Rating Required
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	No Rating Required

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

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.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed whilst with the child minder. They know the child minder will listen to them and meet their individual needs and preferences. They have plenty of opportunities to learn through their play and develop the skills they need to progress.

The child minder keeps children safe by following appropriate policies and procedures in relation to children's safety, health and welfare. These are under review regularly to ensure they meet new guidance, for example infection control during the COVID-19 pandemic. The child minder has a very good understanding of safeguarding, as she is also a foster carer. She supports children well to develop their skills and to interact positively with others.

The child minder provides a clean and safe home environment for children. Much thought has gone into improving areas in which children play, since registration. She has a suitable range of resources for the age and stage of development of those children in her care and replaces all damaged play items.

The child minder manages her service appropriately using electronic forms and social media applications to organise information and to communicate with parents. She maintains good communication with parents about the service she provides and about their children's well-being and progress. The child minder works alongside another registered child minder in her own home. When working together the maximum number of children they can care for is ten, which includes their own children and those in foster care. The child minder was registered on 18th April 2019 but has not yet completed an annual quality of care report.

Well-being

No Rating Required

Children have a voice and are confident what they say will be listened to, and valued. They have opportunities throughout the day to make choices. They confidently tell the child minder if they want help, need someone to play with or are thirsty or hungry. The child minder responded positively and consistently to their verbal and non-verbal requests in a kind and reassuring manner. A child wanting a snack was immediately offered a selection of fruit pieces.

Children are happy and comfortable in the care of the child minder. Two babies relaxed in rocking chairs whilst a toddler played excitedly in the playroom.

Children of all ages interact well with each other. They are learning to share and consider the feelings of others. Children are beginning to form friendships and understand they need to treat others kindly and with respect. A toddler was careful not to wake or startle the babies when marching around the rooms and singing a song.

Children have good opportunities to develop a range of skills through free-play and adult-led activities. They have many conversations with the child minder, which helps to develop their language and social skills. Children have good opportunities to develop their independence because they are encouraged to do things for themselves as much as possible but are supported where necessary. Children have learnt new skills such as, using paint, scissors and glue, during art and craft activities.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

The child minder has the appropriate knowledge and understanding of safeguarding, to keep children safe. The premises were secure on our arrival, with cameras used outdoors to monitor the entrances. The child minder has implemented suitable measures to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19. We were required to sign a visitor's book, sanitise our hands, wear a mask, and complete a risk assessment before entering the home to ensure children's safety. The child minder has also reviewed procedures, including the administration of medications procedure. Her premises are clean and procedures to minimise cross infection are promoted well. She encourages children to wash their hands often and provides hand sanitisers for use when needed. The child minder has completed training in paediatric first aid, food hygiene and child protection to ensure she meets children's needs. The child minder was informed of the new 'Wales Safeguarding' application, which can be downloaded onto phones and electronic tablets for easy access.

The child minder promotes a healthy lifestyle by providing children with healthy snacks, consisting mostly of fruit and vegetables and drinks of water or milk. Parents provide lunch boxes or feeds for babies that are being weaned. She ensures children have regular opportunities to play outdoors and walk locally to develop their physical skills. Babies are taken out often for fresh air in buggies.

The child minder supports children successfully to manage their behaviour. She praises them often for good behaviour and manners. Distraction techniques are used to ease situations such as when children find it difficult to share. The child minder encourages children to be kind, considerate and gentle with others, especially the babies. When needed the child minder works with parents to manage children's behaviour consistently.

The child minder plans effectively to ensure children have varied experiences, which support their all-round development. The babies slept for most of the inspection visit. However, the ball pit, soft toys and activity centres had been placed on a floor mat ready for when they woke up. Interactions between the child minder and the children were very good and plenty of energetic activities were arranged in the playroom such as marching whilst singing 'The Grand Old Duke of York' and dancing.

Environment

No Rating Required

The child minder provides a safe environment for children. She ensures she minimises risks to children by keeping her risk assessments up to date and relevant. The child minder is aware of the hazards within her property. This includes sloping floors and steps due to the building being old but modernised, and a terraced garden, which is not fully accessible to children. Security at the premises is very good.

The child minder provides a suitable environment for children to ensure their play and learning. She provides ample space for them to play in a playroom and lounge area where babies can relax on a sofa or on cushions, or they can play on mats on the floor. The child minder uses a large screen display to entertain children. Children have separate sleep and nappy changing areas. The areas in the home used specifically for child minding have been changed to allow direct access to the bathroom and outdoor play areas. Play areas outdoors are secure. The child minder also takes children for walks locally in the countryside and to country parks, play parks and places of interest to them. When restrictions allow she will return to local toddler groups with the children. Outdoor activities allow children to have opportunities to develop their physical skills, get fresh air and develop a knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live.

The child minder provides resources, which are suitable for the age and stage of development of those attending this service. Resources are stored in baskets and storage units mainly in the playroom, which the children can access easily. Broken items are replaced regularly ensuring those the children use are of good quality. Good quality new toys seen included wooden home corner units, tables and chairs and low child size sofa chairs. The child minder told us she had also recently purchased additional resources for babies.

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

The child minder generally manages an effective service. She has an up to date statement of purpose and policies and procedures which were written in partnership with another registered child minder. Most records are kept electronically as documents or photo images. These are maintained appropriately, and there is public liability insurance in place.

The child minder can care for a maximum of five children when working alone but 10 when working with another named child minder. All people living at the child minder's home and over 16 years of age have satisfactory disclosure and barring services certificates to evidence their suitability too.

However, the child minder was registered in April 2019. Since that time, she has completed a quality of care review but not produced a quality of care report as required by the regulations. She stated that she considers feedback provided by parents and often seeks the views of children about her service and has made plans for improvement. We have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion as the child minder stated that she would complete a quality of care review report by 7th June 2021 and the risk to those using the service is minimal. We have noted this non-compliance as an area for improvement.

Communications and relationships with parents are good. The child minder keeps parents informed using text messaging and social media applications as well as daily diaries. Information shared with parents includes a starter pack containing appropriate information and monthly newsletters. Often the child minder will send photo messages to parents with comments about their child's day and parents we spoke to confirmed this. The child minder also sends home completed art and craftwork, which parents, said they enjoy receiving. One parent told us her children were happy to attend and had a good time with their child minder, her transition back into work during the pandemic was also very easy because of the reassurance the child minder provided.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1 To download and familiarise themselves with the new 'Wales safeguarding' application.

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

The child minder must provide a quality of care report annually.	Regulation 16 (3) (a)
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The area(s) identified above require improvement but we have not issued a priority action notice on this occasion. This is because there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service. We expect the registered provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection.

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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