



Inspection Report

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Mold



Date Inspection Completed

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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?	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 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 to develop.

The child minder keeps children safe by following appropriate policies and procedures in relation to children's safety, health and welfare. These have recently been reviewed to ensure they meet the new guidance, specifically for COVID-19. The child minder has a very good understanding of safeguarding. She supports children well to develop their skills and to interact positively with others.

The child minder does not operate from her own home but from the premises of another registered child minder. The premises are kept clean and safe by both child minders so as to ensure a suitable environment for children. There is a suitable range of resources on the premises, for the age and stage of development of those children in her care.

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 their children's well-being and progress. When working together the maximum number of children the two child minders can care for is ten, which includes on occasions up to three of the child minders own children, and those fostered by the other child minder. Both child minders are registered in their own right and carry out their roles in partnership, sharing responsibilities for those in their care. The child minder has not yet completed her annual quality of care report. She was registered on 18th April 2019 but was voluntarily suspended whilst on maternity leave.

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 if they are thirsty or hungry. The children's verbal and non-verbal requests are met 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, they are interested, and engaged in the activities the child minder plans with them.

Children interact well with each other. They are learning to share and consider the feelings of others. Children form friendships and understand they need to treat others kindly and with respect. Toddlers are encouraged to be good role models for younger children. A toddler was careful not to wake or startle the babies when marching around the rooms and singing a song. They are well mannered and behave responsibly given their age and stage of development.

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. They develop their independence skills 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 arrival, with cameras used outdoors to monitor the entrances. The child minder has implemented suitable measures to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19. She has also reviewed procedures, including the administration of medications procedure. We were required to sign a visitor's book, sanitise our hands and wear a mask, and complete a risk assessment before entering the home to ensure children's safety. The premises are clean and procedures to minimise cross infection are promoted. 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. 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 towards the babies which are usually in the care of the other registered child minder. 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. A toddler played with the child minder during the session, interactions were very good and plenty of energetic activities were arranged such as marching whilst singing 'The Grand Old Duke of York' and dancing.

Environment

No Rating Required

The child minder ensures the environment in which she works is safe for children. She minimises risks to children by keeping her risk assessments up to date and relevant. The child minder is aware of the hazards within the property. This includes sloping floors and steps 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. There is ample space for them to play in a playroom and the lounge was used for the babies as they 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. The child minder also takes children for walks locally in the open countryside and to country parks, play parks and places of interest to them. When restrictions permit 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, table and chairs and low child size sofa chairs. The child minder told us she had 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 the other registered child minder at this service. These have recently been reviewed and forwarded to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). Most records are kept electronically as documents or photo images. These are maintained appropriately and public liability insurance is in place.

The child minder has reviewed her service, making improvements to the areas in which she cares for children; she has bought new resources and improved the outdoor play area. She has listened to feedback from the children and parents as part of her quality review of care provided. However, the child minder has not yet produced a quality of care report, which is required annually.

The child minder can care for a maximum of five children when working alone but 10 when working with another child minder registered at the same address. Both child minders are suitable to work with children and all those living at the premises and over 16 years have satisfactory disclosure and barring services certificates to evidence their suitability.

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 photos to parents with comments about their child's day and this was confirmed by parents we spoke to. The child minder also sends home completed art and craft work which parents said they enjoy receiving.

One parent told us her transition back into work during the pandemic was very easy because of the reassurance the child minder provided. Parents we spoke to also confirmed that their children are happy to attend and have a good time with their child minder.

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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