



## Inspection Report

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**Cardiff**



**Date Inspection Completed**

20/05/2021

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	First inspection following registration with CIW
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	<p>This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh Language.</p> <p>It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of children who use, or intend to use the service.</p> <p>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.'</p>

## 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 very happy and secure at the setting. They have very warm relationships with the child minder and enjoy the range of resources available to them. Children are familiar with the routines and settle quickly. The child minder is attentive and knows the children well. She is confident in her role and clear policies and procedures support her in this. The home environment is very welcoming and in very good repair. Cleaning and health protection arrangements brought in due to the Covid-19 pandemic are effective and well integrated into the setting. The child minder has established good systems and processes to manage the service, and is committed to on-going improvement.

## Well-being

Children make choices and express their views. Children very much enjoyed choosing their play activities such as making their own flags with creative items or playing with large variety of toys in the play room. Children attempts at words are repeated and reinforced by the child minder to improve their communication skills.

Children make themselves very much at home. We saw they were well settled and relaxed, showing excellent bonds of affection with the child minder. Children enjoy lots of attention and praise from the child minder which enhances their self-esteem. They are confident and happy to ask her for anything they need, join in conversations and play by themselves.

Children interact well in this setting as there is a calm, family atmosphere. We saw the young children playing happily alongside one another and occasionally coming together in their play, often with the help of the child minder. We also saw children learning and trying to share, and they were promptly and sensitively praised for their kindness, which gave them reassurance.

Children are familiar with their surroundings and know where things are and so can be independent in their play. They help tidy toys away at the change of an activity and the child minder explained to us that this had improved recently by introducing the idea of putting things back 'where they belong', rather than 'tidying up'. The children develop concentration skills well, such as during craft activities. Children are trusted and take appropriate responsibility given their age and stage of development when using different resources and play spaces.

## Care and Development

Children benefit from the good procedures that the child minder uses to keep children safe and healthy. She is able to identify children at risk and has the confidence to follow safeguarding procedures appropriately. The child minder maintains paediatric first aid training so that she can meet children's needs, and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks as necessary. She provides meals and snacks for children and the children benefit from a healthy eating approach which takes account of any individual dietary requirements and follows current guidelines. Drinks of milk or water are available to children at all times. Effective accident, incident and medication recording systems are in place, although some clarity is needed in recording of incidents. The child minder has adapted her service well to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic and is keeping herself up to date with Welsh Government's 'Protective Measures' as they are up dated.

Children are treated very warmly, with dignity and respect. The child minder sets realistic boundaries, is a good role model and uses a consistent approach to managing behaviour. She takes account of the children's age and understanding. We saw the child minder was very positive and warm when guiding children's behaviour, using praise for positive behaviour and gentle reminders for minor unwanted issues. She interacts in an exceptionally considered and thoughtful manner with the children, which makes them feel secure and work well together. She also speaks with the children in a consistently calm and reassuring manner, which puts them at ease.

The child minder provides a nurturing and caring environment in which children's development is promoted and their needs are met. The child minder consciously ensures that children are able to exercise choice over the activities they engage in. She is aware of the principles of the Foundation Phase curriculum. She speaks knowledgeably about the different skills she aims to develop in the children through the various activities she provides. She takes into account children's interest and abilities, which ensures children respond well, are interested and engaged. The child minder keeps a record of children's development, with photographs and meaningful observations of the children's skills. She promotes diversity in her setting and uses the Welsh language strongly and confidently as a second language Welsh speaker. Children in the setting who are first language Welsh speakers enjoy helping her with her vocabulary.

## Environment

Children are cared for in a clean and safe environment. The child minder carries out a daily visual risk assessment and good cleaning routines throughout the play space. We were told that planned regular deep cleaning takes place in line with the formal written risk assessment of the premises. The front door was kept locked during the inspection and the garden access is kept secure when in use. Clean, hygienically maintained toilet and hand wash facilities are available on the ground floor, which older children use independently. The child minder maintains relevant insurances and an annual gas safety certificate for her home. She is aware of the need to maintain confidentiality and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Fire drills are undertaken regularly and recorded appropriately.

The facilities and equipment provided meet the children's needs well. The home is welcoming and friendly, appropriately maintained, and there is a good standard of cleanliness and repair throughout. The main play spaces are a large open plan kitchen and dining area. It is decorated in an inviting, child-friendly way, with pictures, children's work, and mobiles displayed. The way in which resources are stored means that children can access most of them independently, and this helps to facilitate their free choice. The garden is accessed from the kitchen. The child minder told us that she is hoping to develop the outdoor space shortly and make it safer and more user friendly for the younger children.

Children have access to toys and equipment that are appropriate and suitable to their needs. The resources at the setting cover a wide range of play opportunities for all age groups, including books, threading activities, small world toys (such as cars and trains), dolls, construction blocks, craft resources and role play. We saw children freely accessing the stored resources on many occasions, easily finding what they wanted to play with. The child minder told us she cleans the resources on a regular basis, and that this has been increased during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Leadership and Management

Children and parents benefit from a well-run and planned setting. The child minder has a Statement of Purpose in place which contains the information required and is kept under review to ensure it is always an accurate reflection of the service provided. The setting's policies are appropriate and thorough. A small number of them would benefit from some additional information and this was discussed with the child minder. The register of children's attendance contains all of the necessary information and is completed in a timely manner. However, we noted that incidents are not recorded formally, rather noted for parents in text messages.

Children and parents benefit from a setting which is committed to high standards and improving outcomes for children. There is a good system in place to ensure that formal self-evaluation of the setting is undertaken on at least an annual basis. The Quality of Care report demonstrates that the child minder consults with parents and children and uses that information to set an action plan to improve the setting over the next 12 months.

Robust procedures are in place to ensure the child minder is suitable to care for children. The child minder and relevant members of her household have DBS checks in place and the child minder has a system to ensure they are renewed as needed. The child minder has also shown a very strong commitment to her continuing professional development by undertaking many additional training courses to further improve her understanding of child care and related matters. There are contingency plans in place to deal with emergencies and nominated people in place who can be called upon in an emergency.

Parents have all the information they need to make an informed choice about using this setting. Children's needs are identified to ensure a good quality of care can be provided, visits to the setting are undertaken and child record forms completed to ensure the child minder has the information necessary to be able to provide good quality care to the children the children's needs are met and they are happy at the setting. Copies of all policies are available to parents. Parents are kept involved and informed about their child's activities. Written information is provided on a daily basis through a secure online system which the child minder updates throughout the day with photos and notes of what the child has been up to.



## **Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

R1. Be mindful of the provision of personal information in the statement of purpose, and remove reference to the provision of squash as it is not provided (and would not be in line with Welsh Government guidance).

R2. Ensure incidents are recorded formally when they occur.

R3. Update the child protection policy to reference the new Safeguarding Wales Procedures, and include the procedure to be followed if an allegation were to be made against the child minder or a member of her family.

R4. The trampoline policy should include that any trampoline is used in line with the manufacturer's guidance for children's safety.

**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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