



Inspection Report

Louise McDowell

Conwy



Date Inspection Completed

02/12/2020

Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2020.

You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk
You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	This is the first inspection of this service since registration.
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	The service is working towards providing an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and intends to become a bilingual service or demonstrates significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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. We spent a short period at the service, to observe care practice and interactions between the child minder and the children in her care. We requested information from the child minder and discussed these via a virtual meeting.

Children cared for by this child minder have choice, are listened to and are happy. They are supported calmly to learn skills such as taking turns and sharing. The child minder has practices in place to keep children safe and well. The environment is clean and the safety of children is considered effectively. The child minder understands what she needs do to run her service well and is aware of her Regulatory responsibilities. She has a good understanding of safeguarding processes.

Well-being

No Rating Required

Children move around freely and happily join in the activities on offer. They are able to choose which toys they would like to play with and confidently ask the child minder what they would like to play with next. The children are encouraged to speak and have a go at using new words. Children are given time to practice things for themselves, for example, feeding themselves independently. They have the confidence to do this because they know support is available should they need it.

Children have a warm relationship with the child minder. They move to be close to her when listening to a story and know they will receive a warm response. They are supported to take appropriate care of resources and are reminded of rules and boundaries calmly when necessary.

Children are able to reach and select the toys and books they would like to play with. They are interested and excited by new resources, dance, and sing along to musical ornaments and toys. They are valued and their achievements are celebrated. Their choices are heightened and their play extended by the child minder. For example, a child playing with a red bus was encouraged to sing the wheels on the bus which was enjoyed and which they continued to sing by themselves.

Children have a good range of experiences and are able to spend time outdoors. They have regular trips to soft play areas where they have opportunities to develop physically.

Care and Development

No Rating Required

The child minder understands what she must do to keep children healthy and safe. She keeps her home secure and carries out safety checks such as testing fire alarms and completing gas checks on time. She has up to date public liability insurance.

The child minder provided a sample of clearly written and detailed accident records. The record also shows that this information is shared with parents in a timely manner.

The child minder provided risk assessments for the outings she goes on. These show that the child minder gives careful consideration to the benefits to children of going on outings alongside any identified potential risks.

The child minder understands how children behave and is calm and fair when dealing with their behaviour. She helps them to share and take turns and supports them to use their manners when asking for things from others. She is a good role model to the children she cares for. She has suitable policies in place, which ensure parents know how she will manage children's behaviour to keep them safe.

The child minder is kind and responds to the children when they speak to her. She encourages their speech and language to develop by supporting them to have confidence to use new words. The child minder keeps parents and carers informed of their child's day through text messages. She keeps a record of the children's development and has some understanding of what they must do next to make progress.

Environment

No Rating Required

The child minder keeps her home clean and secure. She understands the risks of Coronavirus and has a risk assessment in place to help identify and manage the risks involved. The child minder has a written policy for Coronavirus, which explains to parents, the steps she will take to help keep everyone safe.

Risk assessments are in place for the child minder's home and for all areas used by minded children. For example, high fencing encloses the outdoor area making it secure for children to use.

The layout of the child minder's home means that children have lots of open space to play and can play outside with ease. The garden area allows children to develop physically and to take age appropriate risks. For example, there are ride on toys and a mud kitchen for messy play.

Toys are stored in labelled boxes so that children are able to see what is available and ask for toys of their choice. Books are displayed in a way, which means that children can help themselves to them when they want to read them. Dining equipment is available for all ages of children. For example, a high chair and low level plastic tables and chairs which the children are able to sit at with their friends. There is also a larger dining table and chairs, which the child minder told us the older children use.

Leadership and Management

No Rating Required

The child minder understands her role and regulatory responsibilities and keeps her paperwork up to date. Her policies are relevant to the service she offers. They are clear to understand and follow and, are reviewed regularly. The statement of purpose is also up to date and gives parents an accurate description of the service offered.

A parent we spoke to was '*very satisfied*' with the care their child received. They were confident the child minder would let them know of any changes at the service and they confirmed that, before children go on any new outings, their permission is asked for. Communication with parents is good. Parents are regularly informed of their children's progress and development.

The child minder takes on board advice given to her and acts to make improvements to her service. Recommendations made during the registration process have been actioned and as a result, the outdoor area is a secure place for children to play in.

Areas for improvement and action at the previous inspection

None		
------	--	--

Areas where immediate action is required

None	
------	--

Areas where improvement is required

None	
------	--

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

No recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards were made.

Date Published 12/01/2021