



Inspection Report

Jenny Hughes

Wrexham



Date Inspection Completed

02/06/2021

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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	17/06/2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No

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 at this service because they are respected and busy with a range of activities. They are able to make some choices and decisions and their interests are valued. They are safe, interact well and are learning to do things for themselves.

The child minder cares for the children well and gives their safety priority. She manages children's behaviour kindly and fairly. She is experienced and provides activities to help children develop.

The environment is safe and set out with plenty of activities and areas of play and learning to develop children's skills. The indoor and outdoor spaces are suitable for the children. There are plenty of toys and games, which are in good condition, to assist with children's development.

The child minder has made good progress establishing her child minding service. She is committed to make improvements to benefit children and their families. The child minder has formed successful and strong partnerships with parents, which helps children feel settled and their families supported.

Well-being

Children have a voice and are able to influence their care. They are able to make some choices and their interests are valued. Children helped themselves and said “we’re building a pyramid” and a toddler played happily with toys including a musical drum. Children are listened to and we learned they had already discussed their plans for the day, which was going to the park.

Children form strong bonds with the child minder who provides warm care. Children happily approach the child minder for cuddles and chats. Older children tell the child minder about their family events. A parent told us their children have settled very well and they greatly enjoy attending the service. Children are content, and have formed relationships with the child minder, other children and family members. Older children were happy to chat with us about what they wanted to do, play football in the park.

Children interact well with the child minder and other children. They share resources such as building blocks and are making friends, appropriate to their stages of development. Children are very polite and ‘thank you’ is heard often. Some children understand the needs of others, for example we saw an older child helping younger ones to recognise colours of blocks and other toys.

Children are interested and engaged in their play. We observed children enjoying activities such as playing with cars and a garage or building blocks. Children have opportunities to do things for themselves. They choose toys and activities, and put toys away after use.

Care and Development

The child minder keeps children safe and healthy. She implements effective policies and procedures, and has reviewed the service and care in line with guidance related to the Covid 19 pandemic. The child minder has up-to-date training in child protection, first aid and food hygiene. She provides opportunities for children to participate in regular periods of exercise outdoors. The child minder gives medication to children and parents sign to acknowledge they have been told about the doses given. However, parents do not sign the medication form before medication being given. The child minder is able to talk confidently about safeguarding and the correct procedures to follow should she be concerned about a child. She provides healthy meals and snacks and intends to use the Welsh Government's guidance on food and nutrition in order to continue to make improvements.

The child minder is very engaged in her interactions with children and supports them to manage their behaviour and boost children's self-esteem. She gives them lots of praise, for example, for being kind. The child minder is a good role model and this is reflected in the politeness of the children.

The child minder knows the children's skills and preferences well and is aware of the Welsh Foundation Phase curriculum. Whilst there is no written planning, photos show a good variety of activities is provided. The child minder knows the children's strengths, needs and likes and ensures that she meet children's needs. A parent told us their child has developed well since being cared for by this child minder. They said they are happy and grateful the child minder goes beyond their expectations.

Environment

The environment is secure, clean and well maintained, which provides a safe and comfortable place for children to relax and learn. The child minder is developing a good environment to enhance children's experiences. She has made improvements to some areas, re organising the playroom so that children can access more resources. The child minder has identified risks and has taken steps to minimise or eliminate them. For example, blind chords are out of the reach of children. Children know how to evacuate the premises safely because regular fire drills are completed.

The premises are suitable for childcare. In the playroom, toys are stored at child height enabling them to help themselves. The resources, toys and books are suitable, including toys for toddlers. The outdoor area, which includes a patio and a grassed area with a mud kitchen is suitable for children and photos showed them enjoying their play in this area. The child minder provides suitable furniture for the children, including small chairs and tables. The resources, which are suited to the age of the children, are in good, clean condition. For example, building blocks, craft materials and toddler toys.

Leadership and Management

The child minder is experienced and has knowledge about current childcare practices and this is set out in the Statement of Purpose which is reader friendly. Observations during the inspection evidenced that the child minder meets the needs of children and their families. A parent confirmed that plenty of information was given to them before their child started. This helps parents make an informed choice about the kind of child care they need.

Policies and procedures are updated and this ensures the child minder is familiar with current processes.

The child minder makes improvements and is reminded that a written Annual Review of the Quality of Care will be required a year after being registered. This will take into account the views of parents and children. A parent told us the child minder listens to them and that they happily speak to her about any child care matters.

The child minder manages the service well and gives children and parents time, as the daily attendance register evidenced low numbers attending during school term time. Mandatory training and DBS checks are current and additional courses on play and the Foundation Phase have also been completed. This ensures the child minder has up to date information on how to provide a suitable learning environment for children.

Relationships with parents are positive and contribute to the well-being of children as parents are able to tell the child minder what their children have particularly enjoyed. The child minder has effective communications with parents which reflect how important she considers partnership with the parents to be. A parent told us they have nothing but praise for the child minder. She phones or texts with photos to keep parents informed during the day.

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

R1. Parents must sign the medication form prior to doses being given.

R2. Children's welfare is further promoted by written planning of play and learning opportunities.

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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