



# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Sharon Collip**

**Barry**



**Date Inspection Completed**

20/02/2020

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<b>Ratings</b>	<b>What the ratings mean</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	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
<b>Good</b>	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.
<b>Adequate</b>	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.
<b>Poor</b>	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

## Description of the service

Sharon Collip is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for up to six children under the age of 12 years. She is a well-established child minder who runs her service from her home in St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan where she lives with her husband. The service operates Monday to Friday from 6:30am-8:00pm and a Saturday morning to accommodate shift workers. Care is delivered through the medium of English. The family has two pet dogs.

## Summary

Theme	Rating
<a href="#">Well-being</a>	Excellent
<a href="#">Care and Development</a>	Good
<a href="#">Environment</a>	Good
<a href="#">Leadership and Management</a>	Good

### 1. Overall assessment

We found that children receive very good care at the service. Children are very happy and their needs are at the centre of the service. The childminder is enthusiastic, experienced and qualified. She has developed very good relationships with the children who are happy and relaxed in the environment. Resources and planned activities are of a good quality. There are effective procedures in place for ensuring children's health and safety and their development is promoted. Leadership and management of the service is good and the childminder's experience, enthusiasm and passion shines through within the service.

### 2. Improvements

The childminder has addressed the recommendations of the previous focused inspection.

### 3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no areas of non-compliance identified at this inspection. Recommendations are outlined in section 5.2 of this report.

## 1. Well-being

Excellent

### Summary

Children experience a high quality, nurturing environment that is supported by a caring, passionate and responsive childminder. There is calm and relaxed environment and the children are at the heart of the service.

### Our findings

Children have a strong voice at the service. Their opinions and wishes are well respected by the childminder and we saw that children are happy to approach her. Children are given time and opportunities to make choices and are supported when needed. We saw the children choose to play with either the doll's house or building toys and one child was happy to tell us that they enjoy doing "everything" at the childminders.

Children are settled and happy at the service. They have developed a close attachment with the childminder, who is attentive to their needs. The children varied in age and we saw that the older children were very responsive and nurturing towards the younger children. For example, we saw a younger child sit on the lap of an older child who was playing cards with the childminder.

Children interact well with their peers and the childminder. For example, we saw one child praise another's art work, saying "That's a good hand print!" The children played well together but also respected each other's wishes to play alone. We saw an older child playing a computer game and a younger child playing with the doll's house. Children receive consistent praise and encouragement from the childminder when they attempt tasks and clearly value the approval received. For example, the childminder praised a child who was completing a number activity book, "Wow I can't believe how clever you are. You're getting so good at your numbers!"

Children engage in their play and learning but are also given plenty of opportunity to relax and enjoy quiet time. They are able to concentrate for an appropriate period of time for their age and stage of development. We saw that the children had access to a variety of resources and activities. The children had opportunities to join an adult led activity with the freedom to leave for an alternative activity at any time. There was a quiet, calm, relaxed atmosphere where the children were engrossed in their play and learning.

Children's development, learning and independence underpin all of the interactions between the childminder and the children. We saw consistent examples throughout the inspection of children's independence being promoted as much as possible.

## 2. Care and Development

Good

### Summary

The childminder is well qualified and experienced in caring for children. She is enthusiastic, passionate and fully engaged in encouraging children's learning and development. Policies and procedures are effectively implemented to promote children's safety and welfare. She has a good understanding of child development and manages interactions effectively in a kind and positive manner. Activities and resources are very well organised and varied to meet the individual needs of the children.

### Our findings

The childminder is well qualified and implements procedures to meet the individual needs of children. She knows the children very well and is a good support to each child. There are effective policies and procedures in place that ensure children are safe at the service. However, these are not all currently reviewed annually. There are effective risk assessments in place at the service, although there is not currently a risk assessment regarding school runs. Fire drills are practiced regularly so the children know what to do when they have to leave the house in an emergency. For example, the children know that they are to drop to the floor and crawl to safety if the house filled with smoke. Good hygiene is promoted and the children are reminded to wash their hands before snack, lunch time and after using the toilet. Accident and incident forms are completed fully and signed and dated by parents. The childminder recently had to use her emergency back-up plan due to a child requiring hospital treatment. The childminder provided an enjoyable snack and lunch for the children that was generally healthy. However, the childminder would benefit from becoming familiar with the new Welsh Government nutrition guidance.

The childminder effectively manages children's interactions and adopts a positive approach to encourage their social interactions amongst themselves. We saw that children were well engaged and stimulated by the activities offered. The childminder promotes the children's confidence and self-esteem well. She knows the children very well and knows exactly what each child likes and dislikes. The childminder is very skilled and natural at managing the needs of all the children of different ages at once.

The childminder has good systems in place to ensure that she is able to effectively plan for the children's development. Planning of activities is thorough and we saw completed observations which tracked the children's development effectively. We heard limited incidental Welsh used during the inspection and therefore, the use of Welsh could be further developed. The childminder takes the children regularly to the local library where they choose books that celebrate multiculturalism. One parent told us that they were very happy with the service provided by the childminder. They said that the childminder looks after their child very well and they have been attending since they were six months old.

### 3. Environment

Good

#### Summary

The childminder's home is inviting, clean and very well maintained. Children have use of a good sized living room that has direct access to a large outdoor area via patio doors. The childminder has good security procedures in place to ensure that the children are safe, secure and supervised at all times.

#### Our findings

The childminder ensures that children are safe and secure at the service and she is fully aware of her responsibility with regards to the safety and welfare of the children. Her house is very well maintained and all resources on offer to the children are in good repair. The premises are safe, the front door is locked at all times and visitors are signed in and out. However, the times of visitor's arrival and departure are not currently recorded. Children enjoy sociable meal times with appropriate dining facilities for their ages and abilities. For example, a younger child sat in a highchair at the table. There is a large garage in the garden area that houses additional resources which the children can access with support from the childminder. Appropriate insurances and annual safety checks for the home and car are in place and an annual gas safety check has been undertaken. Fire drills are documented; we discussed the need to add more detail to these logs. The two family dogs have their own space and are well-behaved around the children.

Children can safely explore the living room that offers a variety of resources to support their development. The childminder is always on hand to rotate the resources as needed. We saw that there is additional storage of children's resources in the large garage which are clearly labelled and visual to the children. The garden to the rear of the house is well equipped for the children and used regularly in warmer weather. The children have use of a trampoline which has been risk assessed. In warmer weather, the childminder told us that the front garden is used to provide the children with more open play space where she told us that children had supervised access to equipment such as an inflatable swimming pool.

The childminder ensures that the children have a range of resources that are developmentally and age appropriate for the children accessing the service. We saw the children have access to resources such as a doll's house, paints, jigsaws, books and older children have access to computer games for a limited amount of time. Resources and toys are clean and in good working order.

## 4. Leadership and Management

Good

### Summary

The childminder is passionate about her work and sets high expectations for herself. She demonstrates confidence and skill to promote positive outcomes for the children and their families. Very good partnerships have been established with parents and they speak highly of the childminder.

### Our findings

The statement of purpose is up-to-date and provides parents with the relevant information needed to inform their choice of service, although this document needs to be amended slightly. There are suitable policies and procedures in place but these need to be dated and reviewed annually. Children's contracts we examined included all the relevant information.

The childminder annually evaluates her service by completing a quality of care report and has sought the views of the children through questionnaires. However, parental feedback should also be included within the report. There is a complaints policy in place, however the childminder has received no complaints to date.

The childminder does not employ an assistant. She has a back-up plan in place which includes her husband, who is DBS checked and another childminder in the case of an emergency. We saw evidence of recent training attended including safeguarding and all mandatory training is completed in good time. The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding and the procedures to follow.

The childminder has a good relationship with all parents and goes above and beyond her duties for the children. Parents receive regular updates of their children's development and we saw that one parent had provided feedback to the childminder about getting regular pictures sent to them when at work of what their child is doing while in her care. A parent we spoke with following the inspection spoke very highly of the childminder and the care she provides for their child. They told us "Sharon is a great help, she collects my child and brings them home after school, I can't fault her". We also saw written feedback from a parent who said "She has not only made my child feel comfortable but also myself as I leave for work with a feeling my son is in a nurtured, caring, safe environment." The childminder regularly takes the children on outings to the local farm, the beach and to the National Museum in Cardiff which we saw documented in a photo album.



## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

None.

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

We discussed the following practice recommendations with the childminder:

- update policies and procedures, where appropriate, to reflect the recent change of address for CIW;
- update the current statement of purpose to include childminder's full address and contact details and newest contact details for CIW;
- ensure all policies are dated and reviewed annually;
- refer to Welsh Government's most recent nutrition guidance for childcare;
- ensure that there is a school run policy in place;
- increase the use of incidental Welsh and
- include parental feedback in the annual quality of care report.

## **6. How we undertook this inspection**

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. Two inspectors made one unannounced visit to the service.

As part of the inspection we;

- Observed care practice;
- made a visual check of the areas used for minding;
- spoke to children;
- considered information available to CIW;
- looked at a range of documentation;
- spoke to parents following the inspection and
- provided verbal feedback to the child minder at the end of the inspection.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)

## 7. About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Sharon Collip
Registered maximum number of places	6
Age range of children	3 months to 12 years
Opening hours	6:30am to 8:00pm weekdays
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	23 September 2016
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	20 February 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the 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 Welsh Government's More 'Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care'.
Additional Information: None.	

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