



Childcare Inspection Report on

Sarah Sims

Cwmbran



Date Inspection Completed

08/05/2019

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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

Description of the service

The child minder is registered to provide home based child care for up to eight children under 12 years of age. She operates her service from her home in a residential area of Cwmbran. Child minding takes place on the ground floor, and children have access to a small, enclosed garden. The service is open from 8am to 6.30pm, weekdays. This is an English language service.

Summary

Theme	Rating
Well-being	Good
Care and Development	Adequate
Environment	Adequate
Leadership and Management	Adequate

1. Overall assessment

Children are very secure, settled and relaxed at the child minder's home, and form very close bonds with her. They enjoy a suitable range of experiences and activities which the child minder knows they will enjoy. The child minder is appropriately qualified, and provides very attentive, individual and responsive care. Overall, she ensures her home is safe, welcoming and comfortable, and provides an adequate variety of play resources. The child minder promotes children's health, welfare and safety appropriately. The service is adequately managed.

2. Improvements

The child minder has made improvements to her home so it is welcoming and comfortable. A new back door and heating system have been fitted to ensure it remains safe and suitably maintained. The non-compliance and most of the recommendations from the previous inspection have been addressed.

3. Requirements and recommendations

There were no non-compliance issues identified at this inspection.

We made a number of recommendations to help develop the service and improve outcomes for children. Some of these were also recommended at the previous inspection. All recommendations are discussed in the body of the report and highlighted in further detail towards the end.

1. Well-being

Good

Our findings

Children make suitable choices. For example, they chose to play with some of the resources the child minder made available, and when they were feeling a little tired they could watch some of their favourite programmes on the television. At meal times they could choose to eat sitting on the child minder's lap or in their highchair, and they could leave what they did not want. Older children can access the back garden easily and can express their ideas about what they like to do.

Children are happy, very settled and enjoy being with the child minder. They have developed very good bonds with her. They smile and giggle, and respond positively to her. They can access their comforters easily, and confidently seek out cuddles or extra support which helps them feel secure. They enjoy lots of individual attention and affection, helping them feel valued.

Children are developing suitable self-help skills. For example they are learning to manage their own food well. The child minder told us older children are happy to hang up their own coats and put their shoes on the bottom stair. They are developing their social skills through their interactions with the child minder, visiting parent and toddler groups and spending time with the child minder's family.

2. Care and Development

Adequate

Our findings

The child minder understands her role and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, and attends courses in child protection regularly so is confident of the correct procedures to follow if she had any concerns about a child. However, the child minder was not aware enough of The Prevent duty, which is government legislation that places a duty on child care providers to have due regard to protecting children from the dangers of radicalisation. The child minder promotes children's health and well-being suitably. For example, she ensures she washes her hands at appropriate times, and provides separate hand towels for children to minimise the risk of cross infection. She encourages children to enjoy outdoor play, particularly in better weather. For example, they spend time in the child minder's garden, and visit local parks and boating lakes. Parents generally provide meals and snacks. The child minder is aware of children's allergies and has attended food safety training. However, allergens in the food provided are not recorded, and the child minder has not informed the local authority that she provides and handles food as part of her business. The child minder promotes children's privacy and dignity as, for example, she manages their personal care discreetly, and in line with their individual needs. She holds an up-to-date first aid qualification. Fire drills are practised with the children regularly so they would know what to do if they needed to leave the house quickly.

The child minder promotes children's play and learning adequately. She completed a suitable course when she first registered, and she ensures her mandatory training is up-to-date. However, courses to develop her professional knowledge and child care practice are not generally attended. The child minder is aware of the children's preferences and routines, and offers activities which she knows they will enjoy. She is nurturing and gentle, and provides very responsive and individual care. However, she does not record her observations of the children's play to help assess their development and clearly identify the next steps in their learning. Welsh is not used enough to promote children's understanding of the Welsh language.

3. Environment

Adequate

Our findings

The child minder generally takes suitable steps to ensure her home and garden are safe and secure. For example, a list is used daily to assist with a visual safety check of the home. Most hazards are identified and the child minder takes reasonable steps to mitigate the risks associated with these. For example, a gate is in place to prevent children accessing the section of the garden undergoing development, the back door has been replaced and a carbon monoxide detector installed. However, the blind cords in the living room were not tied up adequately, and a detailed record of any hazards, associated risks and actions taken to minimise these is not kept.

The child minder ensures children are cared for in a comfortable environment which is suitable for their needs. The layout encourages their independence appropriately. For example, they can move around the rooms used for minding easily, and there is easy access for them to the enclosed back garden. There is a downstairs washroom which means children can attend to their personal needs by themselves, and there are places for them to put their belongings.

The child minder has some play resources and equipment. These are of suitable quality and generally meet the children's needs. There are comfortable sofas in the living room for them to rest or relax, and tables and chairs in the kitchen/diner for them to enjoy meals and snacks together. However, the highchair did not satisfactorily meet the needs of all the younger children, and they would benefit from a wider range of resources.

4. Leadership and Management

Adequate

Our findings

The child minder provides an adequate service which is appropriately managed. The service complies with the relevant regulations, and overall meets the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care, although some improvements are required. The statement of purpose outlines what the service provides. Policies and procedures are clear, and overall in line with current expectations. Contracts are shared with parents, and suitable permissions sought for activities such as taking photographs and emergency medical treatment. Records are maintained appropriately and paperwork is suitably organised. Registers show the child minder operates in line with the conditions of her registration, and she ensures she has an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check so parents can be assured she is suitable to care for their children.

The child minder makes some improvements to her service. For example, a new heating system has been fitted, new flooring has been provided, and the garden is being developed to improve the play space for children. There is a reasonable system in place to reflect on the quality of her service and make improvements. The child minder takes account of the views of parents and children and provides a short written annual report outlining things that are working well and general plans for the year such as to renew relevant insurances and update mandatory training. However, the plans and review report do not always give sufficient detail to show how service is improving year on year, they do not always include children's and parents views, and they are not always shared with parents. A suitable complaints procedure is in place although the child minder has not received any complaints about her service. However, this did not reflect how CIW deals with concerns.

The child minder has positive relationships with parents and works flexibly with them to support their child care needs. A good level of information is sought about each child's preferences, stage of development and care needs so appropriate plans can be put place to provide suitable care. The child minder keep parents satisfactorily informed about their child's experiences and daily routines by exchanging appropriate information verbally. However, individual daily diaries for children under two years are not kept.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non-compliance from this inspection

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Record observations of children's play so their progress can be monitored and next steps in their learning effectively identified and shared with parents;
- notify the local environmental health department the service is a food provider, and record allergens in food provided;
- attend relevant training to develop skills and knowledge of child care;
- develop the use of incidental Welsh with children;
- develop the range of resources available to children, and ensure equipment used to help children sit at the table is suitable;
- provide written risk assessments for the home and garden, identifying hazards, the associated risks and measures put in place to mitigate these, and ensure blind cords are out of reach of children;
- develop knowledge of The Prevent duty, and include relevant information on this in the child protection policy;
- include how CIW deals with concerns in the complaint procedure;
- include the views of parents and children in the quality of care review report, and ensure plans are specific and demonstrate how the service is improving, and
- maintain individual daily diaries for children under two years.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection looking at all aspects of the service, undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. We used the following methods to gather evidence for this report:

- We looked at what we already knew about the service;
- the inspection was carried out by one inspector and took place over one morning;
- we observed activities and interactions between the child minder and the children present;
- we looked at a range of records and documents including contracts, the statement of purpose, children's records, records of attendance and policies and procedures;
- we viewed the parts of the premises used for child minding, looked at safety check lists, and took account of the safety measures in place;
- we took account of the comments made in parent and child questionnaires provided for the child minder, and
- we spoke with the child minder about how she ran her service and her plans for the future.

Our findings were fed back to the child minder following the inspection.

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

www.careinspectorate.wales

7. About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Sarah Sims
Registered maximum number of places	8
Age range of children	Birth up to 12 years
Opening hours	8am to 6.30pm, weekday (but closed on bank holidays)
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	6 August 2015
Dates of this inspection visit	8 May 2019
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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