

Childcare Inspection Report on

Deborah Simmonds

Barry



Date Inspection Completed

17/09/2019

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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

Deborah Simmonds was registered in 2008 to care for a maximum of 10 children up to the age of 12 years. The child minder runs her business from her home in Bonymaen, Swansea and operates between 7:00am and 6:00pm, Monday to Friday. The service is provided through the medium of English.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children who are cared for by the child minder interact well with each other and are settled, happy, and have a positive attachment to her. The child minder has a good understanding of safeguarding and keeping children healthy. She provides healthy home cooked meals and ensures daily walks and visits to parks. Documents and records are kept secured and are well organised. Parents are very happy with the care provided.

2. Improvements

The child minder has completed a level 3 qualification in health and social care for children and young people. She is currently working towards her level 5 qualification in leadership and management.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have made one recommendation relating to care and development. This can be found at the back of the report.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children have a clear voice and feel safe and happy at this service. They interact well and have a good relationship with the child minder. They enjoy their play and learning and have good opportunities to develop their independence.

Our findings

Children had choices and were free to move around the environment. They confidently chose resources and activities they wanted. For example, one of the children asked for stickers and was handed stickers. Children were confident to talk to each other and the child minder about what they wanted and what they would like to do. They agreed they wanted to go to the park before lunch, which they did.

Children were settled and relaxed. Younger children were apprehensive of our presence and stayed close to the child minder. Others happily involved us in their play. They were comfortable in the environment and had formed positive relationships with the child minder, which ensured they felt happy and content in her care. Children were listened to and their achievements celebrated, resulting in them feeling valued.

Children interacted well with each other, most of the time. They played co-operatively together and are learning to share and ask politely for items, with support. Some children needed reminding and distracting when they did not share and abruptly took toys from other children's hands.

Children were all busy and actively involved in an activity they had chosen. They enjoyed their experiences and were able to follow their interests as they had free access to suitable resources. Children showed excitement when playing in the park, pretending they were on a boat in water surrounded by crocodiles. One child said "quick get on before the crocodile gets you!" Children eagerly sang songs to us from musicals and films they had seen. They used musical toys to accompany them. Children could develop their independence as they were allowed to complete tasks for themselves. For example, children ate and used the toilet independently.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

The child minder is sufficient at keeping children safe and healthy. She manages children's interactions in a kind and caring manner and promotes their learning and development effectively. The child minder provides a range of suitable opportunities that inspire the children to play and learn.

Our findings

The child minder implemented positive practices to keep children safe. She had completed safeguarding training, which ensured she knew the correct procedure to follow should she have concerns about a child. Children's attendance and departure times were recorded daily. The child minder carried out regular fire drills and details recorded. Hygiene practices supported children to be healthy. For example, the child minder and children washed their hands before meal times and after being to the toilet. The child minder offered children drinks at regular intervals to ensure they were kept hydrated. She offered regular opportunities for children to be active and get fresh air. This was through planned trips to places such as the park and the beach. The child minder provides fresh, home cooked meals such as casseroles, roast dinners and pasta.

The child minder managed interactions well and consistently. She listened intently to the children, responding in an appropriate and caring manner. The child minder was involved in the children's play. She sat with them and joined in their play. For example, when they were creating animals out of play dough, the child minder made her own animals and bugs alongside the children, and offered ideas and suggestions. The child minder ensured children felt valued, as their individual ideas and needs were known and respected.

The child minder knew the children well and provided them with appropriate resources and activities to support their learning and development. This had a positive impact on the children's language and communication development. Discussions with children and observations we made evidenced the child minder planned a good range of activities and opportunities for the children. This included craft activities, days out to the park and local woods. We noted that children's progress was recorded in their individual files, based on all areas of development. The child minder provided children with a range of toys and resources that were suitable for their age and stage of development.

3. Environment

Good

Summary

The environment is safe and secure with all the relevant checks being completed. The child minder provides a well maintained, homely and child friendly environment where children feel content and relaxed. Resources are of a good quality and suitable for the children being cared for.

Our findings

The environment was secure with the main entrance locked at all times. Relevant checks were completed, including gas, ensuring they were safe. Risk assessments were available for all areas of the environment and daily checklists ensured all areas were safe. A first aid kit was available in the house and in the car. The bathroom did not have any products within children's reach, and paper towels were available for children to dry their hands. Safety gates were situated at the bottom of the stairs and between the lounge and kitchen. The environment was very well maintained.

The environment is light and provided a warm and welcoming atmosphere where children felt relaxed and comfortable. Children had access to the playroom, kitchen and bathroom. Older children used the family lounge to relax and watch television after school. The garden area was not available to children as it was under development to ensure it can be accessible and safe for the children to use. Children sat at a table attached to the wall, which folded up when needed. This allowed more space in the playroom.

Resources were of a good quality and suitable for the ages and stages of development of the children attending. They were stored appropriately so children could access them freely. The child minder told us that resources were stored away and alternated frequently to ensure children kept interested in their play.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The child minder manages her service well and ensures all documentation is up to date and well organised. Policies are available and reviewed annually. She self-evaluates appropriately the care and service she offers. The child minder ensures her core training is kept up to date. The child minder has positive partnerships with parents and other child minders.

Our findings

The child minder had a clear vision of the service she provided and this was shared effectively through the statement of purpose. This allowed parents to make an informed decision about the care they wanted for their child. The most current copy was received by CIW during the inspection. All required policies and procedures was up to date. Children's records showed that all relevant information was up to date. All policies had been reviewed.

The child minder had a current quality of care report and we saw that parents and children were consulted as part of the process. All children commented positively on the service. The child minder had identified plans to develop the service for the next year and included developing the garden area and completing her level 5 qualification.

Overall, the child minder ensured all her core training was kept up to date and first aid and child protection training was updated. The child minder did not have a food hygiene certificate. The child minder made sure that all household members over the age of 16 had up to date Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

The child minder has developed a positive relationship with parents. She keeps in regular contact with them through a messaging app. She also completes daily diaries which provide detailed information about their child's day. The child minder has positive relationships with other child minders and they meet up regularly for their children to socialise and share any updates in the child care sector. The child minder ensures daily trips out to local beach, park and a woodland area.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We recommended that the child minder completes a food hygiene training course.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full, announced inspection undertaken as part of our schedule of inspections. One inspector visited the service on 17 September 2019 for a total of four hours.

We:

- viewed policies and procedures, risk assessments, registers and children's files;
- observed children's engagement and the care being provided by the child minder;
- spoke to the children and child minder;
- inspected areas used by the children, and
- gave feedback over the phone for a total of 30 minutes.

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	Deborah Simmonds
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	0 – 12 years
Opening hours	Monday to Friday 7.00am – 6.00pm
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 October and 12 November 2015
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	17 September 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 children who use, or intend to use the service. 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.’
Additional Information:	

Date Published 13/11/2019