



Childcare Inspection Report on

Julie Rees

Blackwood

Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg

This report is also available in Welsh



Date Inspection Completed

07/10/2019

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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 with Care Inspectorate Wales to care for 10 children under 12 years of age. She also provides 'Flying Start' placements to children aged from two to three years. Her home is a well maintained semi-detached property in a quiet residential area of Cefn Forest in Blackwood. The ground floor is used for child minding with toileting facilities on the first floor. Children also have access to a large, well equipped garden. The service operates through both the medium of English and Welsh.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children are strongly encouraged to communicate their wishes and feelings which shapes the operation and development of the service. The child minder ensures her service is very well run, is enthusiastic, experienced, qualified and extremely child centred. She develops very good relationships with children, who present as relaxed and happy within their environment. Resources and planned activities are plentiful and of a very high quality. There are effective, clear procedures for ensuring children's health, safety and all round development is promoted.

2. Improvements

There were no recommendations made at the previous inspection. However the child minder has continued to develop her service and extended physical play opportunities for children, particularly in the garden.

3. Requirements and recommendations

During the inspection we identified that the child minder is exceeding the National Minimum Standards in many areas. We have made some recommendations regarding some elements of record keeping and these can be found in section 5.2 at the end of this report.

1. Well-being

Excellent

Summary

Children's well-being is promoted very well through fun and stimulating activities which are supported by a caring, responsive child minder. The service is extremely child focused and children are encouraged to communicate their wishes and feelings and participate in shaping the service.

Our findings

Children's opinions and wishes are listened to and their feedback is actively considered in the development and delivery of the service. Children are given time and opportunity to make choices and are supported when needed in their chosen activity. We saw that the environment was extremely well set out so that activities were all child led. We saw a child chose to paint a flower, play with wooden building blocks and then requested to play outside and this was immediately accommodated. Children are consulted with on a daily basis and more formerly within questionnaires to inform the annual quality review.

Children are happy and settled as there are systems in place to promote children's feelings of security and emotional well-being. For example, we saw that children had helped create 'Fy mlodau' (My flower) through their hand prints creating the stem and photographs of the children as the petals of the flower and this was displayed for all children to see. Children's preferences were respected and at snack time. For example, a selection of fruits and healthy snacks were organised so that children could choose their preferred option and some chose mango whilst another chose banana.

Good social skills are encouraged and we saw children demonstrate good manners and be respectful to one another. Older children included younger children in their play and were patient and kind to them. For example, they explained the rules of the football game and swapped partners so that everyone had a go on each other's teams.

Children really enjoyed and benefitted from the many play opportunities and experiences. They were able to engage well in the activities and sustain interest for very good periods of time. We saw children enjoying arts and craft sessions, playing football with their friends and observing nature whilst counting the birds feeding on the tree outside. Children were very well supported to take part in all of the activities they wanted to explore.

Children's development, learning and independence underpin all of the interactions between the child minder and children attending. We saw consistent examples throughout the inspection of children's independence being promoted as much as possible. For example, a 'tree' with the children's photographs was easily accessible so that children could easily hang up and access their coats and belongings. A helper of the day was identified so that at snack time a child was responsible for laying the table and helping their friends with cups and plates. Children knew to wash their hands and helped tidy resources away when they had finished playing with them.

2. Care and Development

Excellent

Summary

The child minder is well qualified and experienced in caring for children. She is enthusiastic, well organised and fully engaged in encouraging children's learning and development. She implements a comprehensive range of procedures to promote children's welfare and keep them safe and healthy. Activities and resources are very well organised in order to meet all children's individual needs.

Our findings

The child minder is well qualified and implements her procedures to meet the individual needs of the children. She has undergone safeguarding training and has a clear understanding of her responsibilities. She knows children very well and is able to identify children's moods and anticipate their needs in order to promote healthy lifestyles and keep them safe. Fire drills with children are conducted monthly so that they know what to do if they need to leave the house in an emergency although some further information would strengthen these records. We saw that good hygiene was promoted with children, the equipment and the resources they used. We saw that accidents, incidents and medications had been recorded appropriately and parents were informed promptly. The child minder has a paediatric first aid certificate and is confident to administer first aid. One parent we talked to told us that they were very happy in the care the child minder gave to their child. Food provided was nutritious and healthy and daily outdoor activity was included in children's routines so that their physical development was supported.

The child minder very effectively manages interactions with children and adopts a positive approach to encourage children's social interactions with their peers. Positive feedback and praise are used to support children's behaviour and understanding. During the inspection children were well engaged and stimulated by the activities. The child minder promotes the children's confidence and self-esteem and provides a sense of fun and enjoyment. She has a range of strategies to develop children's emotional well-being. For example, we saw a display of cartoon faces clearly showing a variety of emotions. The child minder explained this was a device for children to use to identify and communicate their feelings even if they did not have the vocabulary to do so.

The child minder has very good systems to ensure she is able to promote children's play and learning and meet their individual needs. A developmental journal is completed to observe, assess and plan around children's individual needs. These recordings had been completed termly but the child minder stated that she has reviewed this system and will complete them on a monthly basis along with the current weekly photographic evidence to further improve her support to children. We saw that she supported learning through themes discussed and agreed with the children and, for example, had identified 'Autumn' as the current theme. Natural resources had been used to make hedgehogs and children were learning autumn colours. Parents we spoke to and questionnaires we read indicated that parents were very satisfied with the individual care given to their children and the progress they had made whilst at the service. Welsh is promoted very well and we heard young children count confidently to seven in Welsh. The child minder explained that one of their

activities during the autumn theme is to plant an acorn and once it has grown to transplant it into the local eco park they regularly visit so that when the children are older they can visit the trees they planted as saplings.

3. Environment

Excellent

Summary

The child minder takes a great deal of pride and effort to ensure the environment is child centred, safe and stimulating for children both inside and outside. There is enough space for children to play and explore and the overall atmosphere is calm and relaxed. The home is well maintained with resources and equipment well organised, accessible to children and of a very high standard.

Our findings

Procedures are followed to promote children's safety and care and attention is given to ensure all legal requirements are met in relation to the upkeep and maintenance of the home. We noted that a visitor's book was kept and that the front door was securely locked throughout the inspection. Risk assessments for the premises are maintained and reviewed regularly and daily risk assessments/visual checks are completed for all areas, inside and outside and for trips off the premises. The child minder sets up the play environment to be fun and stimulating before children arrive and the environment, equipment and resources were seen to be very clean and of very good quality. Safety gates, first aid equipment, fire blankets, smoke and carbon monoxide sensors and locks on cupboard doors were all in place. As the child minder transports children she has ensured that appropriate safety seats are available for all children and that vehicles used are insured and road worthy.

Children have access to the kitchen for meal times, table top activities and messy play, a playroom for role play, construction, small world, reading books and relaxing and an exceptionally well equipped garden with swings/wooden climbing frame, mud kitchen, planting and sand and water play. There are stimulating activities and age appropriate resources for all children attending. Suitable child-sized equipment for the children is readily available, for example low table and chairs are present within the kitchen so that children can comfortably eat their food or do table top activities. Children have easy access to store their belongings, and resources are clearly labelled and easily accessible. Children are supported to use the bathroom on the first floor where they have access to their own individual towels to prevent cross infection. The child minder showed us home link books that she used which included activities to learn simple welsh words so that parents could support their children in learning and speaking Welsh. Children are also encouraged to be eco aware and recycle cardboard, yoghurt pots etc.

Children have access to a wide range of high quality resources and equipment including multicultural and natural resources. The child minder had recently purchased a rail so that role play costumes could be hung up neatly and are more visible and accessible to the children. The child minder checks equipment regularly and discards any that are unsafe, old or worn.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The service is well organised by a creative, well qualified and enthusiastic child minder who is mindful of her own professional development. There are systems in place to annually review the service and the child minder is aware of the importance of building good relationships with professionals and parents. Policies, procedures and daily records are well organised but some aspects of the service's paperwork could be strengthened.

Our findings

The child minder provides a clear picture to parents of the service provided. She has a statement of purpose which outlines how the service operates although some minor details need to be amended in this document. Policies and procedures are clear and reviewed annually. She has devised an Eco policy and eco awareness is a strength of the service. The child minder has a very good understanding of her child protection responsibilities and procedures and immediately after the inspection made minor amendments to her policy to ensure clarity for parents. She could further strengthen her practice through undertaking training on 'Prevent', a government strategy to deal with radicalisation or extremist views and she discussed completing online training in this area.

The child minder has effective systems in place to evaluate her service so that she can plan for continual improvements. Improvements made to the service and her vision for the future are strong. The child minder evaluates the activities in order to improve upon planning. She explained one evaluation of making hedgehogs from leaves. She said although some children had not initially seemed interested in this activity, as soon as they saw what it entailed all of the children became enthusiastic and joined in. Her evaluation identified that the activity was a success but that her initial explanation of it to the children needed to be clearer. Children, parents and linked professionals are frequently consulted and we saw their feedback within questionnaires demonstrating a high level of satisfaction with the service. Their feedback could be reflected to a greater degree within the annual quality assurance report.

The child minder works on her own but has identified an emergency child minder as back up. She is very motivated to continually enhance her child care practice and has ensured all mandatory training is up to date as well as undertaking additional training including Additional Learning Needs, Mindfulness with children and has embraced HEY Healthy Early Years. During the week she also she operates one music session and a playgroup session which some of her minded children attend. However, she is clear that children attending who are not her own minded children need to be accompanied by, and be the full responsibility of, their own carer.

The child minder works closely with parents to ensure that children's needs are met and communication with parents is well maintained and this was confirmed by the parents we spoke with. She works closely with health and early years professionals, who provided very positive feedback about the child minders practice. The child minder has shared information with parents regarding General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). She would benefit from checking whether she needs to register with the Information Commissioner's Office.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- Update statement of purpose to give clarity about responsibility for children at playgroup and that her 21 year old daughter does not live at home;
- quality of care could be strengthened by reflecting feedback from parents and children more;
- check whether service needs to be registered with Information Commissioner's Office;
- undertake 'Prevent' training, and
- information regarding exits and time taken to evacuate the building would strengthen fire drill records.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken by one inspector as part of our normal schedule of inspections. It was conducted over a period of approximately 4 and a half hours. Evidence for the information held within this report was gathered via:

- Discussion with the child minder;
- observations of care practices, interactions between the child minder and children and of the activities undertaken;
- a visual check of the premises;
- reading a selection of daily records, child information records, policies and procedures;
- talking with one parent and children present, and
- reading documentation held by CIW.

Feedback was given to the child minder briefly at the end of the inspection and then more fully via a telephone conversation in agreement with the child minder.

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	Julie Rees
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	Under 12 years
Opening hours	7:15am to 6pm Monday to Friday throughout the year
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	9 July 2015
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	07 October 2019
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
Is early year's education for three and four year olds provided at the service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	The provider does not provide the 'Active Offer' in relation to the Welsh Language. An 'Active Offer' means providing a service in Welsh without someone having to ask for it. This is part of the Welsh language Policy to develop and strengthen Welsh language in services
Additional Information: The child minder is a Welsh speaker and promotes the Welsh language	

Date Published 10/12/2019

No noncompliance records found in Open status.