



Childcare Inspection Report on

Belinda Taylor

Tredegar



Date Inspection Completed

21/10/2019

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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 operates her service from her family home in Tredegar. The service is open from 6am to 6pm, weekdays. The child minder is registered with CIW (Care Inspectorate Wales) to care for no more than five children at any one time. Care is provided for children aged under 10 years. English is the main language used.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children are settled and secure in the care of the child minder and have very close relationships with her. They enjoy their play experiences. They are confident to communicate their needs and views and make decisions about their care. Overall, the child minder promotes a healthy lifestyle and implements policies and procedures well to keep children safe. The environment is safe overall, and provides children with suitable spaces to play and relax. It is equipped with good quality resources and has suitable facilities. The child minder makes improvements to her service and ensures paperwork is well organised and maintained appropriately. The child minder has positive relationships with parents and works closely with them to support their children well.

2. Improvements

Since the previous inspection, the child minder has:

- Begun to develop systems to record observations of children's play in order to help her track their progress and identify the next steps in their learning;
- updated training in food safety, first aid and safeguarding, and attended training in improving physical activity through outdoor play;
- begun to use questionnaires with the older children to obtain their views about the quality of her provision, and
- implemented more up-to-date systems to help share information easily with parents.

3. Requirements and recommendations

The service is compliant with the regulations so there are no requirements following this inspection. We made some recommendations to help develop the service and improve outcomes for children. These are discussed in the body of the report and listed in section five.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children make choices and express themselves easily. They are settled and relaxed as they have formed a very positive relationship with the child minder. Children enjoy their play and are developing their self-help skills well.

Our findings

Children communicate to express their needs on a range of issues such as when they would like their snack and what they would like, confident the child minder will interpret their emerging language. The children move around the rooms used for minding freely. They happily choose their activities such as looking at books, and assuredly invite the child minder to join in with their play. Older children happily express their views, for example in questionnaires.

Children are settled and develop very close bonds with the child minder which helps them feel valued. They go off to sleep easily which shows they feel safe and secure. They approach the child minder easily for cuddles and support, and play easily around her. They feel a sense of belonging as they have specific places to put their coats and shoes, and the home and garden are child friendly with play resources and books easily accessible to them.

Children enjoy their time at the child minders. They are happy to play with the range of resources both in the living room and conservatory, and are relaxed and at home. They enjoy involving the child minder in their play and like sitting with her at the table whilst they have their snack.

Children gain independence and self-help skills in line with their age and stage of development. For example, younger children are learning to manage their own food, help themselves to their drink and recognise their own coats and shoes. Children can make their own decisions about which resources they would like to play with, and generally these are easily accessible to them. The child minder is aware the conservatory needs some reorganising so children have slightly less choice which would help them make decisions and find what they would like to play with more easily.

2. Care and Development

Adequate

Summary

The child minder provides sensitive, responsive and unhurried care. She keeps children safe, and overall promotes a healthy lifestyle. She encourages positive interactions and provides and plans appropriate opportunities that support children with their play and learning.

Our findings

The child minder has completed safeguarding training and understands the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child. She is aware that she would need to notify CIW if an allegation was made against her or any member of her family. However, this is not included in the child protection policy. She has developed policies and procedures to support her in keeping children safe and healthy and works closely with parents to support children well with specific allergies, dietary and health needs. However, allergens in the food provided are not recorded. The child minder generally provides healthy meals and snacks and encourages children to drink water. However, we suggested the child minder refer to the new Welsh Government's healthy eating guidance for regulated childcare settings to ensure all food provided promotes a balanced diet. The child minder has up to date training in food safety and ensures appropriate procedures are followed to minimise the risk of spreading infection. For example, individual hand towels are provided for children. We suggested the child minder undertakes an audit of the infection control measures in place using the Public Health Wales tool. The child minder ensures regular fire drills are completed and the smoke alarms are working. However written records of the smoke alarm checks are not kept. Regular opportunities are planned for children to be active and get fresh air, through visits to local parks and soft play centres. The back garden is organised for some physical play such as with wheeled toys. However, the garden is temporarily not being used. The child minder undertakes risk assessments for places visited to ensure children are safe when on outings. However, an outings policy is not provided.

The child minder uses positive strategies to promote children's behaviour. She treats children with dignity and respect and promotes their sense of self-esteem by involving them in a range of decisions which affect them. She encourages them to develop their social skills by visiting parent and toddler groups with them and meeting up with other child minders. She offers clear explanations so children know what is expected of them and praises them for specific activities such as helping to tidy up. The child minder follows a suitable behaviour management policy. However, we discussed including more information in relation to the positive strategies used to provide greater clarity to parents.

The child minder is experienced and knows the children she cares for well. She provides very sensitive and warm care, and follows each child's individual routines. She offers appropriate activities and most play opportunities are child-led and initiated whilst the child minder makes suggestions based on each child's likes and preferences. The child minder plans a variety of trips and visits to extend children's experiences to places such as pumpkin farms, farm parks and beaches. She has begun to make observations of children's play to help her track their progress. We discussed documenting her planning to show how the activities provided will promote the next steps in children's learning and that they follow the children's interests. The child minder uses some Welsh with children to promote their learning of the Welsh language. However, she is aware this is an area which could be developed.

3. Environment

Adequate

Summary

Overall, the environment is safe and potential hazards are generally managed well. The environment is spacious enough so children have room to play and relax indoors and outside. It is equipped with suitable, good quality resources and has appropriate facilities.

Our findings

The child minder ensures her home is secure, with the front door locked. The child minder has risk assessed all areas used by the children. These are generally reviewed and updated when required and show that overall, risks are managed well. For example safety gates are used to prevent children from accessing the stairs when unsupervised. However, we did suggest that measures are put in place to ensure children cannot trap their fingers in the new conservatory door and that now the child minder is providing care for older children steps are taken so that children cannot access the contents of the medicine cabinet in the bathroom. The house is clean and well maintained; safety checks for the heating system are carried out annually.

The child minder's home is child friendly and provides appropriate space for children to take part in a range of activities, including a living room where they can enjoy floor play or relax, the kitchen where they can eat and enjoy more messy activities such as arts and crafts and a designated playroom where they can play and find the resources they wish to use more independently. The resources are of good quality and appropriate for the ages of the children. The child minder is aware the playroom is a little cluttered at the moment which reduces the ease which with children can find what they want and make good choices about their play and is hoping to reorganise in the very near future. The garden provides space for children to get fresh air safely and securely and when in use can be accessed easily which promotes children's independence.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The child minder manages her service well and records are kept in line with the regulations and National Minimum Standards. She evaluates the quality of her service and implements developments to improve outcomes for children and their parents. She keeps her core training up to date and values positive relationships with parents.

Our findings

The child minder has a statement of purpose that overall provides parents with the information they need to make a decision if the care offered was right for them and their child. However, the document did not include information about the use of the Welsh language at the setting and that individual contracts are negotiated with parents. Policies and procedures are well understood and appropriately organised so they can be accessed when needed. We made some recommendations in relation to some of the policies so parents can be fully clear of what to expect. Key policies are shared with parents. Record keeping is good and in line with the National Minimum Standards. The child minder has a sense of purpose to sustain improvements. However, these plans are not always recorded and shared with parents.

The child minder reviews the quality of her service annually and shares the written report with parents. She makes developments to the service in order to improve outcomes for children. For example, she has recently begun recording her observations of children to help her monitor their progress and identify the next steps in their learning. The child minder seeks the views of parents and has recently developed a questionnaire for children to help her identify areas of strength and areas that could be improved within her service in line with their views. The child minder is keen to include their views in the next quality of care report and we discussed ways the views of younger children could be included. A complaints procedure is in place although the child minder has not received any concerns about her service. However, the procedure does not include how complaints subject to concurrent investigation are managed or how CIW deal with concerns.

The child minder is suitably qualified and has a number of years' experience working with children. Registers show she operates within the conditions of her registration, which allow her to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. The child minder runs her setting as flexibly as possible to meet parents' child care needs, and works closely with them to ensure she can provide a reliable service. For example, she gives very good notice of her planned leave. The child minder and all adults living in her home over the age of 16 years have current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks to confirm their suitability.

The child minder values the importance of good relationships with parents. She seeks detailed information about each child's preferences and care needs before they start with her so she can put appropriate plans in place to support their care, and offers a very flexible settling in process so children can get to know her at their own pace. The child minder shares information with parents through discussions when they drop off and collect their child and regularly shares photographs of their child's experiences and information about upcoming events or trips. The child minder works with other professionals to help support individual children and their parents well.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non-compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

- record allergens in the food provided;
- undertake an audit of infection control measures;
- develop the use of incidental Welsh with the children;
- record planning to show how planned children's experiences will promote the next steps in their learning and will evidence that these activities follow their interests;
- ensure children cannot trap their fingers in the new conservatory door nor access medicines in the bathroom cabinet, and keep a written log of smoke alarm checks.
- record future plans and share with parents, and
- update the statement of purpose, complaint, behaviour management and child protection policies, and provide an outings policy.

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 day;
- 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 checks and took account of the safety measures in place
- we took account of the comments made in the two child questionnaires provided for the child minder;
we spoke with the child minder about how she ran her service and her plans for the future,
and
- our findings were discussed with the child minder at the end of 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	Belinda Taylor
Registered maximum number of places	5
Age range of children	Birth up to ten years
Opening hours	6am to 6pm, weekdays
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	19 November 2015
Dates of this inspection visit	17 October 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 <i>More 'Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care'</i> .
Additional Information: None	

Date Published 17/12/2019

No noncompliance records found in Open status.