



Childcare Inspection Report on

Sarah Swart

Newport



Date Inspection Completed

13/11/2019

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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

Sarah Swart is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to care for ten children under the age of 12 years. She runs her service from her home in Newport, which she shares with her husband and three children. Care is provided between 08:00am and 06:00pm weekdays throughout the year. This is an English language service.

Summary

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

Overall assessment

The child minder provides a quality service for children and parents. She is skilled in following the children's lead and encourages them to make choices and decisions about their care. Children are happy, enjoy attending and establish strong attachments with the child minder. The environment is suitable for the purpose of child minding with access to all facilities needed. She works closely with parents to meet children's needs. There are a range of policies and procedures in place and overall the service is well managed.

Improvements

Recommendations made at the previous inspection have been actioned;

- children's time of arrival and departure are now recorded;
- policies and procedures are now dated to show when they were last reviewed, and
- an annual quality of care report is completed.

Requirements and recommendations

During the inspection we found the child minder to be non compliant with the following regulations;

- Regulation 6 (3) (a) (i) as the child minder did not have a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check;
- Regulation 20 (4) (a) as not all persons residing at the premises had a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

We have not issued a non compliance notice on this occasion as the child minder took immediate action.

We made good practice recommendations which are summarised in section 5.

1. Well-being

Summary

Outcomes for minded children are good. They are encouraged to make choices and express themselves. Children are relaxed, well-settled and have plenty of opportunities to help them develop independence and have fun.

Our findings

Children have plenty of choice and they voice their opinions. They make decisions about how and where they play in the child minder's home. They select and ask for toys to play with and move freely around the home, following their own interests. We saw children playing happily with dolls, dressing them and taking them for a walk. Children's choices are listened to and they were able to express themselves well.

Children are relaxed and content in the child minder's care. They have developed a strong relationship with her. On our arrival children looked to the child minder for reassurance, but soon settled to eat their breakfast, which demonstrates a strong sense of security and familiarity with her and their surroundings. They chatted to the child minder in a relaxed and natural manner, and we saw children affectionately approaching her for cuddles.

Children are beginning to understand their feelings, and behave in accordance with their age and stage of development. Children respond positively to frequent praise and encouragement. Children are beginning to share and take turns whilst playing, supported by gentle reminders from the child minder. There was plenty of chat and laughter between children during their play.

Children experience a good range of activities that help them learn through play. They can explore a good variety of freely chosen and directed play. We saw children do this with confidence, moving between different play experiences, and sustaining an interest in the activities available. For example, we saw children enjoying playing with cars and aeroplanes, and making 'cups of tea' in the home corner. There are regular opportunities for children to enjoy trips out to local play centres to extend their social network and there are also outings to local parks and beaches.

Children have good opportunities to learn, develop and practice independence and are encouraged to do things for themselves. We saw children feeding themselves and tidying away toys. These opportunities help them develop self-help skills at an appropriate age.

2. Care and Development

Summary

The child minder ensures that children are kept safe and healthy. She is knowledgeable about how to meet individual needs and plans interesting activities to promote their learning and development. The child minder ensures that training is up to date.

Our findings

The child minder has appropriate systems to support children's safety and health and is aware of her responsibilities in this area. We saw that there was a child protection policy in place, which includes a reference to the Prevent duty (a government strategy to protect children from extremism and radicalisation). She has an appropriate current first aid certificate and a Level 2 award in Food Hygiene. Routines established promote good hygiene. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating. Children were provided with water or milk to drink at meal times, however did not have access to drinking water they could help themselves to throughout the day. A medication policy is in place and medication is only given with prior written permission from parents. The child minder records any accidents or incidents appropriately. The child minder records children's attendance and notes the times that they are at the setting.

The child minder is positive in her approach to managing children's interactions. She acts as a good role model, and modelled manners consistently throughout the day, enabling younger children to hear 'please' and 'thank you' appropriately. There is a Behaviour Management policy in place which is shared with new parents to ensure her approach in managing children's behaviour is consistent. We observed the child minder encouraging children to take turns and share, using a firm and fair approach. She is fully aware of the different needs and ages of children in her care and adapts her interactions and strategies accordingly.

Outings and activities are effectively planned to take account of children's sleeps and the school runs, as well as their age and stage of development. The child minder carries out some seasonal and cultural themed activities with children. She shares verbal information about children with their parents. While she is mindful of children's individual developmental progress, she does not record her observations to use in planning for their next steps in play and learning.

3. Environment

Summary

The child minder provides a safe and welcoming environment for children. Children have access to a play room, lounge, dining area and downstairs cloakroom. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

Our findings

The childminder has effective policies in place and understands her responsibility in relation to the safety and welfare of children. Children benefit from care in a clean and safe environment. The main door to the house is kept locked. The home is well-maintained and all resources are in good working order. Public liability insurance is in place as required. Fire evacuation drills and alarm tests are completed regularly and appropriately documented. Risks to children's health and safety are identified and were possible reduced or eliminated.

The premises are welcoming and child friendly. Children's art work is displayed in the kitchen giving them a sense of belonging. Children are able to explore freely and there is sufficient floor space for them to play. There is a downstairs toilet that children can access themselves or with support, depending on their individual needs. Children enjoy sociable mealtimes with appropriate dining facilities for various ages.

Children have access to a range of developmentally appropriate play and learning resources and equipment. We observed children enjoying playing with the play kitchen and food, building blocks, puzzles, dolls and pushchairs and reading books. Resources and toys are clean and in good working order. Children are able to access some resources independently, however storage boxes are not labelled to assist children in choosing what to play with.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

The child minder clearly enjoys her work and is committed to improvements and new developments. She demonstrates confidence and skill to promote positive outcomes for children and their families. Overall, she manages her service effectively, although attention is needed to ensure the regulations are followed at all times. Good partnerships have been established with parents.

Our findings

The statement of purpose provides parents with information about the service so they can make an informed choice about its suitability. A variety of policies and procedures are in place along with an operational plan. Some policies require amending to reflect CIW's change of name, and the accident and emergency policy did not state that CIW would be notified if a child was taken to hospital while in the child minder's care. Contracts we examined contained relevant information and children's details are gathered prior to their admission.

The child minder has made improvements in relation to monitoring and reviewing of her service. She has completed a review of quality of care report and has sought the views of people who use her service; an area identified requiring improvement at the previous inspection. There is a complaints policy in place should parents wish to raise an issue. CIW parent questionnaires we received stated they were very happy with the service.

The child minder does not employ an assistant. Parents are kept well informed of any planned holidays or absences, so that alternative child care arrangements can be made. She has a back up child minder in place in the event of an emergency. The child minder is proactive in terms of her development and undertakes relevant training to remain up to date with best practice. We saw evidence of recent training completed on additional learning needs, Prevent duty and safeguarding. She manages her time well and plans around the children's needs.

The child minder has a good relationship with parents. Parents receive ample information about the service. This gives them the necessary information to make informed decisions about their children's care. The child minder works closely with parents to learn and share information about each child's needs. She has systems in place to ensure parents are kept well informed about their children's care and learning. Children's daily diaries detail aspects about their day and are shared with parents. The child minder regularly attends local playgroups and visits places in the local community with the children, including soft play centres, Cosmeston Lakes and the beach.

Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We made the following practice recommendations;

- amend accident and emergency policy to state CIW will be notified if a child is taken to hospital while in the child minder's care;
- develop current activity planning and observation systems;
- label storage boxes to assist children in choosing resources;
- provide children with drinking water throughout the day which they can access independently, and
- amend policies and procedures to reflect CIW's change of name.

5. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections. One inspector made one visit to the service which was announced at short notice to ensure availability. 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, and
- considered feedback provided in CIW parent questionnaires.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:
www.careinspectorate.wales

6. About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Sarah Swart
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	0 to 12 years
Opening hours	08:00 – 18:00 weekdays
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	26 November 2015
Dates of this inspection visit	12 November 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?	<p>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. <i>This may be because the service is situated in a primarily English speaking area and the provider does not currently intend to offer or promote a Welsh language service.</i></p> <p>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>'.</p>
Additional Information: Feedback was provided via telephone on 13 November 2019	

Date Published 07/01/2020

No noncompliance records found in Open status.