

Childcare Inspection Report on

Michelle Dance

Saltney



Date Inspection Completed

06/02/2020

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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

Michelle Dance is registered as a child minder, who operates her service from her home in Saltney. The child minder is registered to care for a maximum of 10 children under the age of 12. Children have use of the conservatory playroom, lounge and downstairs toilet. They also have access to an enclosed garden are to the rear of the property. The service operates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday. The service does not implement the 'Active Offer' in relation to the Welsh language.

Summary

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

1. Overall assessment

Children are happy and settled. They feel secure, enjoy the activities available to them and have formed positive bonds with the child minder caring for them. The child minder knows the children well, promotes positive interactions and responds to children's individual needs effectively. The child minder provides children with a safe, comfortable environment with a range of resources to suit children's ages and stages of development. The child minder is experienced, suitably qualified and manages the service well.

2. Improvements

Since the last inspection the child minder had completed an extensive range of on line training to improve her child care knowledge and practice. She had put this learning into practice by introducing new ideas and purchasing play and learning resources to support the children to learn effectively through play.

Parents receive information digitally as their child's day progresses.

We observed that nappy changing practices did not follow best practice during the first inspection visit, however, the child minder made immediate improvements and accessed up to date information, updated her policy and completed the Infection Control Audit for her service. Observations of nappy changing were subsequently appropriate.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We have made recommendations regarding outdoor play and the provision of food to the children.

1. Well-being

Good

Summary

Children are happy, settled and feel secure as they have formed bonds of affection with the child minder who cares for them. They enjoy the activities available to them and are curious to explore their environment. Children have formed friendships and are learning to take turns and share with their peers. They are encouraged to do things for themselves and are learning independence skills well.

Our findings

Children are confident to make choices and express themselves. A wide variety of toys are available, which are easily accessible and stored well to enable children to choose independently. Children decided what they wanted to do and moved around the conservatory playroom freely as they wished. This is well set out in different areas of learning that appealed to their age and development. Children are comfortable communicating with the child minder and are confident to ask for what they want.

Children have positive relationships with the child minder. They approached her for cuddles and were eager to involve her in their play. For example, one of the children asked for help to bring a toy bus to the sensory tray that had been set up with dried rice and pasta. A younger child crawled over to a variety of wooden people and handed them to the child minder and indicated to put them on the bus. The children naturally developed their play with the child minder from a sensory activity to a transport journey. They scooped rice and pasta shapes into little bowls with utensils or simply rolled them around their hands, then built the tracks together and took turns to push the bus and wooden items along the track.

Children were confident to engage with us by showing us their favourite toys as they played throughout the morning. This showed they felt secure in their surroundings. It was evident children felt valued as their achievements were celebrated. Children smiled happily when they received praise for their efforts. Children are encouraged to do things for themselves and to be involved in tasks. All children helped to tidy up at the end of activities and even the youngest children were encouraged to feed themselves and wipe their own hands after finishing their meal. Plenty of time was given during activities to ensure children were able to complete them as independently as possible and at their own pace.

2. Care and Development

Good

Summary

The child minder knows the children well, promotes positive interactions and responds to their individual needs effectively. During the first visit we made recommendations in relation to infection control procedures / nappy changing in order to improve outcomes for children. These were implemented without delay by the second visit.

Our findings

The child minder has a good understanding of how to protect children and of safeguarding procedures. She has completed safeguarding and paediatric first aid training, meaning she is well prepared to deal with any accidents or emergencies should they occur.

The child minder mostly promotes healthy lifestyles as she provides some opportunities for children to be physically active. The child minder told us about the normal daily routine of going outdoors regularly for a walk, to attend a toddler group or to visit the local park. The child minder confirmed she has plans to set up the outdoor play space when the weather improves. We recommended that the rear garden should be utilised for outdoor play throughout the year. The child minder confirmed that she provides simple cold food for the children, or food parents provide. We discussed this further and the child minder agreed to research nutritional guidance and devise a healthier and more varied menu. This was partially in place by our second visit. High chairs are wiped before snack and meal times to ensure they were clean and to minimise the risk of spreading infection. We observed the nappy changing procedure and found that, although procedures were partially in line with current best practice, the child minder did not use a paper covering on changing mats, wear gloves or an apron to further reduce the risk of spreading infection. The child minder stated she would rectify this and update her policy and procedures without delay.

The child minder has formed close bonds with the children. She speaks in a friendly and relaxed manner, showing genuine warmth and affection. This provides children with a sense of belonging and increased self-esteem. Plenty of praise is given throughout the day for positive behaviour, completing activities and trying new things. The behaviour management policy details how unwanted behaviour is dealt with in a positive way. Children are gently reminded to take turns and share toys and the child minder models positive behaviour, encouraging children to engage positively in play.

Detailed information is kept for the younger children, outlining essential information about children's time at the service. The child minder also shares information with parents verbally or via secure social media, informing them of their child's progress and about their day. Through conversations with the child minder and from looking at children's records, it was clear she plans a variety of play and learning activities. The child minder also has her own written account of children's time at the service and a formal method for planning activities.

3. Environment

Good

Summary

The child minder provides care in a clean, comfortable environment. She ensures children have access to a range of interesting indoor areas. Outdoor areas have sufficient space and potential for the child minder to provide a rich environment for play and learning. Resources are of good quality and appropriate for the children's needs. Risks are identified and effective measures are put into place to manage or eliminate any potential hazards to children's safety.

Our findings

The premises are secure, CCTV is in place; the outdoor areas are surrounded by a fence and the front door is locked to prevent unauthorised access. A record is maintained of visitors to the service. The child minder ensures appropriate measures are in place to keep children safe in the event of an emergency. Records we viewed confirmed that fire drills had been completed regularly, ensuring that all of the children are rehearsed in how to evacuate the premises quickly and safely in an emergency. We recommended that fire drill records could be improved to include a reflection on what went well. Improvements had been put in place to fire drill records by the second visit. (~~The child minder had implemented this by our second visit.~~) ? leave this in or not Elen? Identified risks within the premises were included within written risk assessments showing how these were managed and where possible eliminated. The child minder records the dates on which these documents are reviewed or amended.

The premises are well decorated, clean, bright and welcoming. Children have use of a conservatory playroom as well as the lounge, which provides plenty of space for them to move around and play or to sit and rest on the comfortable furniture. Low level storage boxes and cupboards are used in each area, enabling children to access most toys and resources independently.

Toys and resources are clean and in good condition. A wide range of toys and resources are available for children including dolls, jig saws, games, musical toys, craft materials, toy cars and garage, figurines and a toy house. Most toys are made from natural materials, such as wood, enabling children to gain a good understanding of sustainable and natural resources.

High chairs, booster seats and steps are available for children to use, encouraging independence and aiding their development. These are clean and in good working order. The child minder told us toys were cleaned regularly with antibacterial spray. The child minder had also recently completed the Public Health Wales Infection Control Audit Tool for Childcare Settings.

4. Leadership and Management

Good

Summary

The child minder is experienced, suitably qualified and understands what improvements need to be made to run the service effectively. Policies and procedures are in place for all aspects of the service. Information is shared regularly with parents to ensure they are kept up to date with their child's progress.

Our findings

The child minder has a comprehensive statement of purpose, which gives a clear description of the service offered and provides parents with all the information they need to decide if the service could meet their needs. Policies and procedures are in place for all relevant aspects of the running of the service. The child minder told us these were reviewed regularly those sampled were dated January 2020. We saw from written records the child minder had asked parents to complete registration forms and contracts before their children started. Permission slips had also been signed by parents for many aspects of the care provided to children, ~~including for photographs, outings, the administration of medication and first aid and application of sun cream~~. Children's files also contained details of children's likes, dislikes and their usual daily routine.

Comment [PE(-CaPT1)]: Don't need to list them

The child minder monitors her service and makes improvements by gathering feedback from questionnaires sent out to parents each year so they could share their views. The child minder also told us she gathers children's views about the service using verbal feedback and discussions. This feedback was collated and used to form a report outlining a summary of the feedback and an action plan for any improvements planned in response.

Documents are filed appropriately and are easily accessible. The DBS checks for all the adults who live on the premises were current. The child minder keeps accurate records of children's attendance each day. Although registered for 10 children the child minder stated she cares for just 2 or 3 children at any one time as she believes this enables her to deliver better quality care to the children.

The child minder had good relationships with parents. Information about how much children have eaten and activities they have taken part in were recorded in their on line daily diaries. Photographs were regularly shared verbally or via secure social media. The child minder told us she takes children to places of interest within the community, such as a local toddler groups, library, and park and nearby shops.

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 rear garden should be utilised for outdoor play throughout the year, and that the childminder implements best practice in relation to healthy eating through the provision of a wider variety of food for children.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was a full, unannounced inspection undertaken as part of our normal schedule of inspections.

One inspector visited the service on 30 January and 06 February 2020.

We:

- inspected a sample of documentation and policies;
- observed practice and completed observations to capture evidence of children's engagement and the care being provided by the child minder;
- spoke to the children and the child minder
- we looked at the areas used by children and resources on the days of our inspection and
- we detailed feedback of what we found and what needed to be addressed.

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	Michelle Dance
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	0-12
Opening hours	7:00-18:30 Monday to Friday except for bank holidays and time off for Christmas Easter and a summer holiday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	22 February 2017
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	30 January 2020 and 6 February 2020
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?	No
Additional Information:	

Date Published 04/08/2020

No noncompliance records found in Open status.