



# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Bethan Mahoney**

**Cardiff**



**Date Inspection Completed**

03/02/2020

**Welsh Government © Crown copyright 2020.**

*You may use and re-use the information featured in this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government License. You can view the Open Government License, on the National Archives website or you can write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)*  
*You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.*

## **Description of the service**

Bethan Mahoney has been registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) since August 2014. She operates her service from her property in the Cardiff area, where minded children have use of the ground floor. The child minder is registered to provide care for ten children under 12 years. Child minding is offered Monday to Friday 8:00am to 6:00pm throughout the year. Care is provided through the medium of English, with the use of incidental Welsh.

## **Summary**

### **1. Overall assessment**

This was a focused inspection which did not consider all inspection themes. Children are content in a service where they have developed warm relationships with the child minder. The child minder takes suitable steps to keep children safe when transporting them. Some improvements are required to the environment and in the management of the service.

### **2. Improvements**

This inspection did not consider the recommendations made at the last CIW inspection of the service. They will be considered fully at future inspections.

### **3. Requirements and recommendations**

We found no issues of non-compliance with the regulations. We have made recommendations which relate to the environment and the management of the service and these can be found in section five of this report.

# **1. Well-being**

## **Summary**

This was a focused inspection. We have not considered this theme in full and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously. Children can make choices at this service. They are comfortable and relaxed in the care of a child minder with whom they have developed a warm relationship and with each other. Two children were present over the course of our visit.

## **Our findings**

Children are able to make decisions and communicate their needs. We saw that children are able to making decisions during their play and if they needed anything they were able to communicate their needs and wants to the child minder.

Children interact well with each other and with the child minder. The children were happy and played well together and with the toys available to them. There was an adequate selection of toys and play activities on offer which provided variety and engaged the children appropriately. The children were confident in accessing these when they wished.

## **2. Care and Development**

### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection. We have not considered this theme in full and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

### **Our findings**

The child minder ensures that children are safe at this service. We accompanied the child minder on a school run and we found her practice to be suitable and safe throughout. She had clearly considered safety matters, such as taking a route which avoids walking alongside main roads where possible. A safe transportation policy also shows how the child minder ensures children are kept safe when on outings.

### **3. Environment**

#### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection. We have not considered this theme in full and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

#### **Our findings**

Children are generally safe at this service although some improvements are needed. During our visit, we noted there was no effective restriction on the cupboards in the kitchen which contained cleaning materials, such as detergents. There was no method of drying hands in the bathroom and when the children washed their hands for lunch, the child minder had to find the hand towel in the kitchen to dry the children's hands. Children were also left unsupervised to start their lunch and we saw them offer to share food from their lunchboxes with one another. This could place a child in danger if they had an allergy.

## **4. Leadership and Management**

### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection. We have not considered this theme in full and therefore we have not issued or revised any ratings awarded previously.

### **Our findings**

Leadership of this service is adequate. Throughout our visit, the child minder was caring for fewer children than her maximum registered number of 10 and within the age ratios set out by the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care. This meant that children received adequate attention from the child minder. We asked to review the child minder's register of children's attendance to verify this, but the child minder was not able to produce a record from the electronic system she keeps so prepared a paper copy for us to examine. We found no evidence that the number of children or age ratios that need to be maintained had been exceeded. However, contracts and children's records were not always up to date, such as information on changes of address. The child minder's Statement of Purpose does not include the ratios of ages child minders are able to care for according the National Minimum Standards.

## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections**

None

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

- Children's access to the cupboard in the kitchen which contains cleaning materials (and any other hazardous items) must be restricted;
- cleanliness within the home should be improved;
- a method of drying hands must be provided for children in the bathroom in order to prevent cross contamination;
- children should be supervised whilst eating;
- children's attendance registers must be accessible so they can be easily audited and they must accurately reflect the children's hours of attendance;
- contracts and children's records must be kept up to date and
- the Statement of Purpose must include the ratios of ages of children child minder's can care for, as outlined in the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care.



## **6. How we undertook this inspection**

This was a focused inspection. We considered the following information as part of the inspection process:

- one inspector undertook an unannounced visit to the service to observe children and the care they received;
- we reviewed information held by CIW;
- we accompanied the child minder on the midday school run on foot;
- we spoke with the child minder; and
- we looked at a relevant selection of records, including registers and health and safety policies.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)

## 7. About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Bethan Mahoney
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	0-12 years
Opening hours	8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	07/09/2018
Date of this inspection visit	03/02/2020
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?	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 31/07/2020

