



## Inspection Report

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**Aberdare**



**Date Inspection Completed**

16/12/2020

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## About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	5 September 2019
Is this a Flying Start 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 children who use, or intend to use the service. We recommend that the service provider considers the Welsh Government's 'More Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh Language in social care.'

## Summary

***This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.***

Children receive good care from the child minder who is focused on their individual needs. The children are very relaxed, comfortable, settled and encouraged to speak and express themselves freely. Children have a good choice of play activities which sustain their interest and help them to learn. They develop confidence as their self-help skills are promoted consistently. The child minder's home is clean and safe, indoors and outside, with sufficient space and facilities to meet the needs of children. She works in line with her policies and procedures which are reviewed and updated regularly. The child minder works closely with parents in making decisions about their child's individual care needs and provides daily feedback and updates.

## Well-being

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Children are developing good communication skills and are listened to. They are confident to approach the child minder to ask for anything they want and choose from a wide range of toys and equipment, which they can access easily. Children readily put their ideas forward when choosing colours to glue, glitter and paint their pictures. They enjoy engaging with the child minder to learn new words such as colours in the Welsh language.

Children feel safe, happy and valued at the service. They settle easily as they arrive at the setting, going straight to join in with the craft activity. Children are very comfortable with the child minder and other children, laughing and engaging in activities together. They smile broadly as they are praised by the child minder for completing their Christmas picture. They are adapting well to new practices, which have been implemented by the child minder due to the COVID -19 pandemic. For example, they readily engage in the hand sanitising and hygiene routines.

Children really enjoy their play. They are successfully learning new skills, such as communication, through well-planned activities that interest them. They sit for a good length of time at a table, happily doing Christmas craft and painting activities. Children are enthusiastic in their learning, displaying excitement as they successfully answer questions or repeat new words. Occasionally they choose to move away to access different activities, such as the play kitchen and a castle.

Children are developing their skills to become independent very well. They spontaneously take off their own coats when they arrive at the setting and know where to go to wash their hands when they are preparing for snack. They do this independently with some oversight and direction by the child minder.

## Care and Development

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The child minder follows suitable procedures to ensure she can meet the health and safety needs of children she cares for. She is confident in her procedures for dealing with safeguarding matters and clear about her responsibility to update her safeguarding knowledge. The child minder recognises the importance of renewing her First Aid training and has a suitable policy and procedure in place to deal with accidents and incidents. Medication, accident and incident records including pre-existing injuries are clearly recorded and signed appropriately.

The child minder offers a healthy menu and ensures that she has a good understanding of the children's individual dietary requirements. She has made suitable arrangements to inform parents of potential food allergens in her menu plan. The child minder has developed a specific COVID -19 policy and risk assessment and has good procedures to protect children during the current pandemic. Appropriate hygiene routines are in place to promote children's health, including encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times

The child minder provides a good range of activities and gives warm and sensitive care to promote children's development. There is a calm and happy atmosphere in the child minding home and the children have the confidence to explore and make their own decisions. The child minder promotes the use of Welsh language suitably and children are beginning to use simple Welsh phrases to count or identify colours. The child minder has a behaviour management policy and consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies. The policy does not include information on how the behaviour of older children will be managed. She listens, is responsive and respects children's views and children are clear about the rules.

## Environment

***This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.***

The child minder follows a good set of procedures to ensure the indoor and outdoor environment is safe and secure for children. Risks to children's health and safety are identified and where possible reduced or eliminated. For example, breakfast bar high stools are removed when children are present and the front door is locked and secure at all times. The child minder has a suitable pet policy and risk assessment for the family dog to ensure the safety of the children. Her home is clean and well maintained. The child minder has a regular cleaning routine which follows current best practice guidance to protect children from the risk of COVID 19. She ensures the maintenance checks for the home and appliances are up to date.

The child minder ensures the environment has good indoor and outdoor play spaces for children to explore. She has developed the garden area which offers a suitable range of resources to engage children's interest and allows them to enjoy physical play. Her home is appropriately furnished so children can play and relax. For example, children enjoy craft activities whilst sat at a child sized table and chairs. Children can access a good range of resources for different types of play with ease including natural materials.

## Leadership and Management

***This was a focused inspection and on this occasion, we did not consider each theme in detail.***

The child minder manages her service very well and aims to improve her skills and the quality of service she provides. She pays attention to the Day Care Regulations and National Minimum Standards (NMS). The child minder ensures that she notifies CIW of significant events as required. She has developed a good range of policies and procedures and has a clear vision for her service. For example, details of the child minding service she offers to parents and children are clearly outlined in the statement of purpose. She understands the importance of keeping up to date with best practice and the need to refresh her training and skills regularly. Record keeping is organised and well maintained.

The child minder does not employ an assistant and manages her time well. She understands the importance of maintaining appropriate security checks for persons over the age of sixteen years living at her home in order to safeguard children

The child minder has a good understanding of the importance of completing a quality of care review to develop the service she provides. The child minder uses questionnaires to gather feedback from parents. She uses this feedback in order to evaluate her service and plan for improvement. The complaints policy does not include information on how children can raise a concern.

The child minder understands the importance in working in partnership with parents to ensure that children experience the support required to meet their individual needs. Contracts are agreed with parents and information about the children's preferences and individual needs are sought before they start. She keeps parents well informed and stays in contact by phone, text or email to provide feedback on the well-being of their child. Parents provide very positive feedback on the child minder's service. One parent commented that the child minder is very approachable and accommodating and that her child loves going there.



**Areas for improvement and action at the previous inspection**

None		
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**Areas where immediate action is required**

None	
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**Areas where improvement is required**

None	
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**Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards**

Update the behaviour manager policy to include information on how the behaviour of older children will be managed. Develop the complaint policy to include how children can raise a concern.

**Date Published** 15/02/2021