



Inspection Report

Karla Brake

Abergavenny



Date Inspection Completed

20/01/2021

Final unpublished report

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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	7 January 2020
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?	No

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Summary

Children are very happy, settled and enjoy attending the setting. They feel valuable members of the setting by actively making decisions about their care and play. The child minder knows the children well and tailors support and activities to meet their needs effectively. There are basic systems in place for assessing children's development and links to more formalised activity planning is in its infancy. All children are confident and have excellent relationships with the child minder and her own children. The children are inquisitive and have lots of fun in their play and learning.

The child minder has stringent measures in place to keep children safe and healthy. She keeps abreast of current protective measures in childcare settings and implements her policies and procedures thoroughly. Children thrive and have lot of fun in the inviting and unique environment that the extensive land and spacious farmhouse provides.

The child minder is experienced, flexible and provides good quality care for both children and their parents. Partnerships with parents are close and they talk highly of the service she provides. The child minder is approachable, generally well organised and is keen to develop the service further.

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Well-being

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 have a strong voice and readily make choices and decisions about their care. Older children complete questionnaires to share their views and ideas and there is regular consultation with children when considering and purchasing new resources. The child minder instinctively consults children about their play. We heard the children respond confidently when asked, *"Would you like to continue playing with these or would you like to go and play with something else?"* Children make many choices because there is a good balance of activities and free play with a broad selection of resources set out daily.

The children are happy, settled and have lots of fun. They have close relationships with the child minder, her children and other children attending. Parents' report their children are excited to attend and willingly go to the child minder on arrival and often do not want to leave. We observed older children happily chatting together before engaging in some imaginative play in the role-play café with some of the younger children. The younger children are relaxed, play nicely with the toys, and seek comfort from the child minder when they need it. We saw the children smile with pleasure in response to frequent praise, successfully promoting their confidence and self-esteem. Children know the daily routines well and take the changes to hygiene and hand washing practices in their stride.

Children thrive and develop good independent skills. Parents praise the wide range of resources and activities available to support their children's learning. Children take part in planned activities across the week that focus on different aspects of learning and are skilfully adapted and tailored to children's individual needs. Children concentrate for long periods sorting and matching coloured bears to coloured spots, naming colours and counting. Tailoring questions and introducing cups for the youngest children to fill and empty enabled all the children to engage positively in the activity.

Care and Development

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.

The child minder has good understanding of how to keep children safe and healthy. She has rigorous infection prevention measures in place to help reassure parents. All children have their own aprons, named drinks bottles, pencil cases and lidded boxes for their coats and personal items to help minimise any cross infection. The child minder follows safe hygiene procedures and encourages all children to wash their hands before and after mealtimes. Good questioning, such as “*Why do we need to wash our hands?*” and discussions with older children about the risks and why changes have been made, helps reinforce their understanding. The child minder has completed child protection training and has good awareness of her responsibilities. The updated safeguarding policy is informative and reflects current guidance.

The child minder provides a broad range of activities and play experiences that support and encourage children’s learning and development. She knows the children well to provide resources and activities based on their interests. For example, planning activities in response to a story the children have really enjoyed. The child minder records children’s progress and provides ongoing feedback to parents about their child’s day. Observations and assessments to monitor and evaluate children’s progress and identify their next steps in learning, to feed into more formalised planning, is in its infancy.

Environment

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.

The premises is welcoming and the farm setting provides a unique experience for children. The child minder has thorough risk assessments and health and safety policies and documents in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and implements them rigorously. She has displayed signage and guidance on all the procedures she is following for parents to view and provided a hand sanitizer station at the entrance. Fire drills take place in line with the updated fire policy and days these take place alternate to ensure all children take part.

The child minder makes good use of the space available both inside and outside to enrich children's play and learning experiences. Children benefit from regular walks to see the horses, use outdoor play equipment and explore the fields and natural environment. Each day the child minder converts the sitting room into a large, inviting playroom providing different play opportunities and areas of learning based on children's interests and needs. There is also a dedicated, screened area in the office that provides the youngest children with a peaceful and private area to sleep when needed.

The child minder has an extensive range of resources available in the conservatory that provide great variety and choice for children. She liaises closely with the children when deciding on new resources to purchase. Recent introduction of a large soft play square has been popular with both the younger and older children. We saw a younger child sit comfortably enjoying some quiet play and later older children decided it was a hot tub. A fantastic role-play kitchen, café and shop significantly enhances children's enjoyment of imaginative play.

Leadership and Management

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.

The child minder loves her job and works hard to provide a quality, responsive service for children and their parents. Most policies and procedures and an informative statement of purpose are in place and all parents receive copies of these and any updates. Prior to the inspection, the child minder had not routinely informed CIW of all important changes or significant events in line with The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010. However, the child minder has since notified CIW of a change to the service and is aware of the need to obtain a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check for her eldest child.

Adequate arrangements to monitor the care and evaluate some aspects of the service are in place. The child minder has taken steps to address most recommendations raised at the previous inspection in January 2020. For example, she updated some policies and documentation and undertook a basic quality of care review in February 2020. Although the report does not cover each area in depth, it highlights her wish to develop further the resources and outdoor environment. A child-friendly complaints policy for the older children so that they can understand action to take, should they have any concerns about their care is not in place.

Partnerships with parents are strong. Feedback from parents praise the quality of the service they receive and the excellent care shown to their children. They shared some comments their children had made, *"I really love Karla, can I go tomorrow?"* and *"I love it daddy can I go all the time?"* Parents value the information they receive about their children and the service and all feel very well informed.

Areas for improvement and action at, or since the previous inspection

Ensure that every person over the age of 16 who lives at the premises is suitable and an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service certificate has been issued.	Regulation 20 (2) (a) Regulation 20 (4) (a)	Achieved
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Areas where immediate action is required

The child minder failed to notify CIW of significant events.	Regulation 31 (1) Sch4.09
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Areas where improvement is required

None

Recommendations to meet with the National Minimum Standards

- R1. Extend systems to monitor and evaluate outcomes for children including observing and assessing progress and linking their individual next steps into more formalised activity planning.
- R2. Devise a child-friendly complaints policy for the older children so that they can understand action to take should they have any concerns about their care.

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Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Achieved

Areas for improvement and action at, or since, the previous inspection. Not Achieved

None	
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Areas where priority action is required

None	
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Areas where improvement is required

None	
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