



Inspection Report

Samantha Christopher

Buckley



Date Inspection Completed

08/09/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	5
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 January 2017
Is this a Flying Start service?	No
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	This service does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language and does not demonstrate a significant effort to promoting the use of the Welsh language and culture.

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<u>Well-being</u>	Good
<u>Care and Development</u>	Good
<u>Environment</u>	Good
<u>Leadership and Management</u>	Good

For further information on ratings, please see the end of this report

Summary

Children are active and curious learners and make choices about what they want to play with. Interactions between children and the child minder are good. Children settle quickly and enjoy toys and books that they have chosen to play with. Children's opinions and interests are valued and acted on. They are developing their independence skills well.

Children are cared for by a child minder who delivers good care and is committed to ensuring children grow and develop well. The child minder promotes children's play, learning and development through a range of activities. Individual needs are met successfully, and children are safe and healthy. The child minder manages interactions effectively.

The environment is clean and welcoming. Resources within easy reach provide good opportunities for children to develop a range of skills. The layout promotes children's independence and is organised to enable them to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with. A lovely garden with summerhouse develops children's interest in nature and outdoors.

The childminder has built positive partnerships with parents who she keeps well informed about their child's day. The child minder attends toddler groups and takes children to local areas of interest and further afield, supporting them to successfully discover more about the world around them.

Children let the child minder know what they want to play. They make decisions and their non-verbal requests are listened to and acted on by the child minder, such as looking at books or becoming ready for lunch or a nap. Children babble happily with the child minder and adults around them. Older babies choose where to sit for their lunch. The children are very comfortable, and relaxed and we saw lots of smiles.

Children feel safe, happy and valued. They are busy and enjoy choosing their own toys and equipment, with excited chatter. Children are reassured with a cuddle with a new face and provided with praise and lots of encouragement. They settle well, even those who have only recently started. Children have a sense of belonging and show attachment to the child minder. Children enjoy care which is warm, relaxed and respectful of their needs. They are confident as the daily routine is familiar and this ensures children feel secure as they know what is going to happen next such as taking their bibs off after lunch.

Children interact well with the child minder, who has a friendly manner; they know she is listening and responding to what they have to say. They proudly show that they have eaten their lunch. Children have good relationships and the way they smile and play shows how children like coming to spend time with her.

Children enjoy their play and learning with interesting toys and equipment. The young children have plenty of choice and the opportunity to learn new skills. They are confident to chat to the child minder whilst busy playing and making the most of the range of activities and resources. Children were busy and interested in what they were doing knowing the child minder was there to provide help and support.

Children have good opportunities to develop skills of independence and they are confident. Learners for example they try to hold the spoon to feed themselves. They move around, playing with toys of their choice, selecting them confidently. The child minder told us they regularly go out to different places in the local area such as toddler groups, and the zoo allowing them to have a range of experiences and socialise. Children follow their own interests, with the child minder on hand to provide help and support gently suggesting toys they would like to play with such as a flip up book and language is developing through books, and lots of chatting and laughter.

Care and Development

Good

The child minder knows how to keep children healthy and safe. She has attended training such as Paediatric First Aid and safeguarding. Parents provide their own food for the children; however the child minder is aware of the importance of providing a healthy diet if required. Relevant policies and procedures are in place to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder pays good attention to hygiene, ensuring children wash their hands and tables are wiped.

Children experience responsive care from the child minder who listens and shows respect and joins in with their play. The child minder's positive attitude enables the children to feel good about themselves and increases their self-esteem and helps them feel valued. The care is relaxed and child led, ensuring children's emotional well-being is nurtured. The child minder interacts with warmth and kindness, giving plenty of praise for small achievements such as feeding themselves, which makes the children smile. The child minder is aware of the importance of routines for children, especially babies.

Child records and contracts are held digitally, and the child minder is knowledgeable about individual children's development. Their routines and preferences are followed such as providing an easy to hold cup. Parents receive a good level of detail about the child's day through the app which includes information about what the children have been doing. The child minder confirmed that all this information is stored securely and backed up. The childminder takes the children out during the week often to the zoo and has membership of various places including National Trust. They visit the library, soft play and the beach. She ensures children are busy and has a range of photographs available on the app which evidence different activities and visits which children take part in and enjoy. She provides a range of play and learning activities in the living room and respects all the children's choices and requests.

The child minder ensures the premises are safe and well maintained and meets the needs of the children including a new fence and gate. The door is kept locked. The child minder makes sure equipment is safe and the environment and toys are clean, well maintained and age appropriate. A safety checklist has been completed and risk assessments have been carried out for places visited such as the zoo. The child minder is aware of her responsibilities and supervises children well during their activities. The child minder has a small dog who is introduced to parents and children when they start and is part of the family.

The child minder ensures the environment is suitable for the children. The children use the living room and the hall for activities and games and the kitchen via a safety gate is used for baking and arts and crafts. She provides plenty of toys and equipment. This makes the children feel comfortable and at home. The child minder provides easy access to resources in a suitable environment. She ensures the environment is welcoming to children as it is light and bright and well organised. Resources are clean and in good repair and all the furniture is appropriate and in good order, the childminder having recently purchased new highchairs. A lovely, enclosed garden is suitably resourced with different areas, such as two mud kitchens and sand pit and ball pool enabling even the youngest children to enjoy outdoor play. At the time of the inspection there was work being carried out at the end of the garden with new steps. The child minder has assessed the risk and said that children play at the top part of the garden well supervised.

A well-resourced living room and outdoor area provide good opportunities for children to develop a range of skills. A summerhouse and mud kitchens ensure children can follow their ideas and play imaginatively. There are a variety of materials including plastic and natural objects as well as recycled which give the children the opportunity to work with different textures and surfaces, such as real-life items such as ladles and wooden spoons as well as scales with weights. The layout of the living room promotes children's independence and ensures they are well supervised. Younger babies have a large cushion to support them so they can see what others are doing and join in the play. The room is organised to enable children to freely explore and make their own choices about what they want to play with.

The child minder has recently updated her statement of purpose, which provides parents with the required information about what the service offers. Appropriate policies and procedures are available for parents and reflect the current care provided. An appropriate record of children's attendance is kept. The child minder is a member of a support organisation Pacey. She finds this useful to keep up to date with information about her child minding business.

The child minder is improving the service she provides. She reflects on her service and is aware of her strengths and areas to improve. We received written confirmation that recommendations from the inspection have been completed. This shows the child minder is proactive in improving her service wanting to reflect best practice and good levels of care. She knows her setting well and has developed her service with additions to the outdoor area providing defined spaces for the children to play and adding new gates and fences. A new summerhouse has replaced the old playhouse ensuring children can play outside in all weathers even when it is raining. The child minder is flexible and purchases extra resources as needed to reflect the ages of the children she is caring for, such as double buggies. Parent's views are important, and feedback is actively sought through questionnaires. All responses were very positive.

Comments include my child 'Is always excited when they turn up'. 'Loves coming to your house'. We 'feel welcome and at ease', 'We are kept up to date.' 'Very happy, my child spends lots of time outdoors'.

The child minder ensures she keeps up to date with all mandatory training and current thinking, such as Planning in the Moment which improves her knowledge to carry out her role effectively. All relevant family members have a current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Car documentation was in order as the child minder regularly transports children to places in the local area and further afield.

The child minder has built effective partnerships with parents. She keeps them well informed about their child's day through an app which shows photographs of the children enjoying their time with her. The child minder is sensitive to the needs of the children and their parents. Children's full details must always be completed before the child starts so the child minder can provide the best care. Regular updates from parents ensure that the changing needs of the children can continue to be met.

Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
New	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
Reviewed	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
Not Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
Achieved	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people's well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

Priority Action Notice(s)

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

We expect the provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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Where we find the provider is not meeting the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child Care but there is no immediate or significant risk for people using the service, we highlight these as Recommendations to Meet National Minimum Standards.

We expect the provider to take action to address these and we will follow these up at the next inspection.

National Minimum Standards	
Standard	Recommendation(s)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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.

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