



Inspection Report

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Sychdyn



Date Inspection Completed

08/01/2024

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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	26 April 2023
Is this a Flying Start service?	Yes
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.

Summary

This was a focused inspection, and on this occasion, we have not looked at all themes in full.

Most children participate well and express their opinions which are valued. They are happy, settled and most children interact positively. Children thoroughly enjoy the activities available and like being given the freedom to direct their own play whilst developing a range of skills.

The child minder follows appropriate procedures to promote children's health and well-being. She has a total of six assistants with usually two/three assistants working with her at one time. On our inspection visit, there was just one assistant working. The child minder and her assistant are kind and caring. Record keeping has improved since the last inspection. The child minder and her assistant support children appropriately and ensure they follow the adult: child ratios set out in the National Minimum Standards.

The environment is safe, secure and welcoming. The child minder has an extensive garden and outside space for children to learn about the world around them. Children are supervised closely when carrying out higher risk activities.

Since the last inspection, the child minder has made significant improvements to her service and addressed all areas of non-compliance. However, further improvement is needed in relation to documentation contained in staff files and staff appraisals.

Well-being

Most children participate well and are encouraged to express their opinions and contribute to ideas. They decide which toys they want to play with, and their ideas are valued when they ask to do things such as make a den. Children choose to play inside if they are cold from being outdoors and help themselves to more food from the middle of the table if they are still hungry at lunchtime.

Children are settled and feel secure and happy. They are friendly with those around them and enjoy involving the child minder and her assistant in their play. This shows they have positive emotional attachments with those who look after them. Most children are familiar with the routine which gives them a sense of security. They know to get wrapped up warm to play outside in the cold weather and enjoy helping in the kitchen during mealtimes.

Children mostly interact well with the child minder and her assistant. They are learning to express what they need. For example, they seek support from the assistant if they become upset or feel overwhelmed. Children follow instructions and generally share resources appropriately, such as the magnifying glasses and den pegs. With a few reminders, children take care of the equipment and help to tidy toys away.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play. They like riding their bike around the garden, lifting tree stumps to look for bugs with magnifying glasses and are excited to create dens for their imaginary games. They watch with curiosity over the garden fence as farmers use diggers to move earth from one place to another. They also enjoy having quieter moments where they slow down and talk about favourite films they watch in the holidays. Toddlers show good concentration as they move small items into different containers.

Children have access to a variety of experiences which enables them to develop a range of skills. A large amount of time is spent outdoors, resulting in many children excelling in gross motor development. Children are given the freedom to lead their own play and be independent which enables them to be imaginative and creative. This also builds problem solving skills and resilience.

Care and Development

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

Since the last inspection, record keeping has improved significantly. For example, accident and incident forms are completed appropriately with copies being shared with parents and them asked to sign at collection time. All children have registration records which contain all required information. The child minder and her assistants now sign in and out of the building when taking children on school runs. However, there are some gaps in the register as children's time of departure is not always written down.

The child minder follows appropriate procedures which promote children's health and well-being. She ensures children are dressed appropriately for the cold weather with warm clothes, boots and there is a basket of spare gloves and hats if children have not brought their own. The child minder encourages children to spend as much time as possible outdoors which helps keep them fit and healthy physically and has a positive impact on their emotional wellbeing.

The child minder and her assistant enjoy spending time with children and are compassionate, supportive and experienced. They effectively help children navigate their emotions and react in a timely manner when they see a child needs support. They wipe children's noses promptly, actively listen when children talk to them about their interests and delight in their play. The child minder has changed her policy and now ensures she follows the required adult: child ratios, including during school runs.

Environment

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The child minder provides children with a safe, secure and welcoming environment. She has removed all unnecessary hazards that were identified at the previous inspection. Risk assessments have been reviewed and contain appropriate control measures to minimise risks. We did identify some further hazards at this inspection. However, all were addressed within 24 hours and photographic evidence sent to us.

The child minder provides children with a home from home environment including access to an extensive garden offering children plenty of space to run around and explore. The environment offers many natural play and learning experiences. The child minder regularly takes children on walks to the local nature reserve. She encourages them to go on adventures climbing trees, splashing in muddy puddles and foraging in the woodland. This helps children develop key skills and have a positive relationship with the natural world.

Since the last inspection, the supervision of children has improved. The child minder and her assistant watch children more closely especially when they are taking part in higher risk activities. However, there are still brief periods of time where the children play unsupervised, whilst the childminder is cooking, and whilst the assistant is using the toilet or caring for other children in a different room.

Leadership and Management

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered this theme in full.

The child minder is engaging appropriately with the Care Inspectorate Wales. She understands the importance of meeting regulations and National Minimum Standards. Since the last inspection, she has made significant improvements and addressed all areas of non-compliance.

The child minder has a good relationship with the assistants that work for her. They enjoy their role, work well as a team, and contribute to ideas. However, the child minder does not conduct annual appraisals. Appraisals can help recognise and celebrate success/achievements of the assistants and identify areas for improvement. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder has some appropriate recruitment systems in place. Prior to employment she looks at documentation such as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate, references, and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) containing their skills and qualifications. However, she does not gather all required documentation for all assistants across the service. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

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
20	Ensure the child minder makes proper provision for the care and supervision of children.	Achieved
25	Ensure unnecessary risks to the safety of children are identified and so far as possible eliminated and ensure any activities which children participate in are, so far as reasonably practicable, free from avoidable risk.	Achieved
30	Ensure appropriate records are maintained in relation to accident and incidents, children's registration documents and records of those caring for the children during school runs.	Achieved

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
28	The child minder gathers some documentation to demonstrate the suitability of workers. However, this is not consistent for all assistants and further documentation/information is missing. The child minder must ensure there is full documentation available for all assistants working at the setting.	New
29	Staff do not receive annual appraisals. The child minder must ensure staff receive appropriate annual appraisals.	New
31	The child minder must ensure they notify CIW of any significant events as set out in Schedule 4.	Achieved

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)
Standard 5 - Records	Ensure there is a daily record of children's hours of attendance consistently maintained.
Standard 24 - Safety	Ensure children are supervised at all times.

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