



Inspection Report

Margaret Hodgson

Prestatyn



Date Inspection Completed

02/08/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	18 January 2023
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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Summary

As this was a focused inspection, we have not considered the themes of care and development, environment and leadership and management fully.

Children are happy and are confident to make requests. They have opportunities to make decisions about what they want to play with and follow their own interests suitably. Children are settled and they interact positively with their friends and the child minder. They have appropriate play and learning opportunities and are learning to develop their independence skills suitably.

The child minder has an improved understanding of safeguarding procedures. However, the child minder is not fully complying with the Child Minding and Day Care (Wales) Regulations 2010 (the regulations) and the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Child care for children up to the age of 12 years 2023 (the standards). She is not implementing her policies and procedures well enough to promote children's personal safety. The child minder's interactions with children are warm and kind and she praises them with positive language throughout their play and learning.

The environment is clean, welcoming and well maintained. However, the child minder does not have sufficient measures in place to identify risks to children's safety and welfare. She is not providing vigilant supervision consistently which poses a risk to children, as the hazards and risks have not been identified and addressed.

The child minder has made some improvements since our last inspection but her lack of understanding of the regulations and standards is posing a risk to children's welfare and overall outcomes.

Well-being

Children have suitable opportunities to follow their own interests and make decisions about what they want to play with.

Children are confident communicators and express themselves well. For example, a child proudly showed their favourite toy and demonstrated how they played with the dinosaur. They enjoy introducing themselves and talk about the dolphin pictures on their t-shirt. Children make verbal and non-verbal requests to be cuddled and the child minder responds to their needs immediately.

Children settle quickly as they are warmly greeted by the child minder's friendly manner. They are familiar with the daily routines and show how they wash and dry their hands before mealtimes.

Children interact positively with their friends and the child minder. They enjoy the social occasion of mealtimes and practice using good manners. They are learning to take turns and share. For example, during a story time activity children took turns to answer questions and shared the utensils during an outdoor water play activity. Children are learning about kindness. For instance, when two friends had a disagreement, they were encouraged to apologise to their friend and taught the importance of being kind to one another. Other children enjoyed caring for their baby dolls, they pretended to feed them and prepared them for a walk in the buggy.

Children are active and curious learners. They are fully engaged during story time activities. A child confidently named the shapes in the book and said, *'that's a star fish and that's a triangle'*. Other children enjoy exploring the animal figurines and friends have fun making the snake wriggle across the floor. Children enjoy dressing up and developing their imagination. For example, a child showed their friend their pirate hat and walked around the play area in character.

Children are developing their independence skills suitably. They are learning to put on their aprons for water play and tidy up their toys and equipment. A child sustained concentration appropriately as they constructed a tower with large colourful bricks. Children are learning to do things for themselves with positive encouragement from the child minder.

Care and Development

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

The child minder has a warm and friendly approach to care giving. She consistently praises children for their efforts and achievements.

The child minder has an improved understanding of safeguarding procedures, and her training is now current. An improved safeguarding policy is now in place. Although the child minder records the days and times of children's daily attendance this is not always clear to fully reflect which children and their ages, she is caring for on any one day. This was identified as an area for improvement at the last inspection, and therefore we will be issuing a priority action notice and the child minder must take immediate steps to address the matter. The child minder has not taken action to meet the requirements as outlined in a priority action notice issued from the last inspection in relation to adult: child ratios and continues to breach regulations by caring for four children under the age of 5 years. Following a provider meeting with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), the child minder has provided evidence that she has reduced the numbers of children cared for and has provided reassurance that she will adhere to the regulations and national minimum standards in future.

The child minder encourages children to wash their hands, and this helps to promote their personal hygiene practice appropriately. Nappy changing procedures are now in line with current infection control guidance. The child minder now undertakes and records fire drills to make sure children know what to do if they have to leave the premises in the event of an emergency. The child minder has a current paediatric first aid certificate which is suitable for the ages of children cared for.

Environment

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

The child minder ensures the environment is clean and well maintained both indoors and outdoors.

The environment is welcoming, and the layout of the playroom promotes children's independence enabling them to make their own choices about what they want to play with. There is a good choice of books available, and the child minder has displayed these nicely to encourage children to read them. The outdoor area is spacious and consists of playhouses, a mud / water kitchen, swing and slide to help develop children's physical skills.

The child minder has written a risk assessment, but this is not fully reflective of the premises, activities, resources and outings. The risk assessment does not fully identify the potential hazards to children and what measures the child minder will take to manage these risks. This is placing children's health and wellbeing at risk, and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue. The child minder supervises children suitably most of the time. However, she is not providing vigilant supervision consistently. This is placing children's health and wellbeing at risk, and we have therefore issued a priority action notice. The provider must take immediate action to address this issue.

Leadership and Management

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

The child minder does not manage her setting effectively. Some improvements have been made since the last inspection, but significant improvements are required to meet regulations and standards.

The child minder has now produced an improved statement of purpose which contains the required information to provide parents with information about what the setting offers. Most policies and procedures have been reviewed recently.

The child minder has submitted an improved report reviewing the quality of care but this still does not reflect on the comments gathered from those using the setting. The report does not highlight what the setting does well and identified areas for development. While no immediate action is required, this is an area for improvement, and we expect the provider to take action.

The child minder and persons living on the premises now have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service certificate (DBS). The child minder was informed at the last inspection that she had not collated all of the required information on children to ensure she can fully meet their individual needs. A priority action notice was issued and the child minder was told to take action to address this matter. We found during this inspection that she had not taken action to collate the information, and she is continuing to place children's health and wellbeing at risk, and we have therefore re-issued a priority action notice. The child minder must take immediate action to address these issues. Since our visit the child minder has produced a new form for parents / carers to complete, in order to gather the required information in future.

We spoke to parents, and they told us the child minder is approachable and they are happy with the care their children receive. The child minder demonstrated how she engages children with the local community to improve their social skills and raise their awareness of their local surroundings. Photographs of children showed them enjoying visits to the local farm, climbing apparatus in a woodland park, playing on the beach and feeding the sheep.

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
14	The registered person must evidence to CIW that she has understood the requirements and reduced the number of children to be cared for to three under 5 years.	Not Achieved
25	The registered person must have a robust risk assessment which fully reflects the premises, activities, resources and outings to ensure potential hazards to children are identified and suitable measures are in place to manage these risks.	Not Achieved
30	The registered person must ensure all of the required information has been gathered in the children's individual records and there is a clear daily record of the names of the children and their hours of attendance.	Not Achieved

20	The registered person must ensure children are supervised vigilantly at all times.	Not Achieved
15	The registered person has not ensured the statement of purpose includes all the required information. The registered person must provide CIW with a compliant statement of purpose.	Achieved
38	The registered person has not conducted fire drills to know what to do and how to exit the premises in the event of an emergency. The registered person must ensure regular fire drills are conducted so that children and herself are confident on how to evacuate the premises in an emergency.	Achieved
22	The registered person does not have a compliant safeguarding policy and was not familiar with the Welsh Government's statutory guidance on safeguarding children under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. The registered person must write a compliant safeguarding policy demonstrating awareness of the local safeguarding board and Wales Safeguarding Procedures. The registered person must familiarise themselves with the Welsh Government statutory guidance on safeguarding children under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. and Wales Safeguarding Procedures.	Achieved
6	The registered person does not have an enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS) certificate. The registered person must apply for an enhanced criminal record check and make arrangements to present her current enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS) certificate to CIW.	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

N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
16	The registered person must ensure she reviews the quality of care annually and draws on the comments gathered from all those using the setting to evaluate and reflect on what works well, what requires improvement and to set out her vision for the future. The registered person must ensure the report reviewing the quality of care is presented to CIW and contains the required information.	Not Achieved
20	The registered person has not ensured all people living on the premises have an enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS) certificate. The registered person must ensure all people living on the premises have an enhanced criminal record check and is able to present their enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS) certificate to CIW.	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)
	No NMS Recommendations were identified at this inspection

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