



Inspection Report

Margaret Hodgson

Prestatyn



Date Inspection Completed

18/10/2023

About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered places	10
Language of the service	English
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	31 July 2023 and 02 August 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

Children are confident communicators as their wants, moods and needs are considered. They are content and express enjoyment. Children are becoming familiar with the daily routines. Interactions between children and the child minder are positive. Children are engaged in their play and learning experiences and can also relax and have quiet time. They are developing their independence skills suitably.

The child minder has a basic understanding of her role and responsibilities to keep children safe and healthy. The child minder has a gentle and kind approach towards care giving. She organises suitable play and learning opportunities.

The child minder ensures the environment is generally safe and well maintained indoors and outdoors. The child minder has completed improved risk assessments. However, she is not following these consistently to ensure children's safety. The child minder does not always provide vigilant supervision of children which has been raised as an issue with her previously. Toys and resources are suitable for the age and stages of the children's development.

The child minder has made some improvements; however, some of these requirements have not been fully addressed to ensure the best outcomes for children. Further improvements are needed to comply with regulations and standards.

Well-being

Children have some opportunities to make choices and decisions about what affects them. Their opinions and interests are considered.

Children happily communicate their requests and enjoy showing what they like to play with. For example, a child enthusiastically showed the toy dinosaurs and named their colours correctly. Friends had fun exploring the pirate ship, they pointed and chatted about the different characters. Children make requests for their favourite story. For example, a child was delighted to have the story of Cinderella read to them by the child minder.

Children settle quickly as they are greeted warmly by the child minder. They approach the child minder with ease for a cuddle when needed. Children are familiar with the daily routines and show how they wash their hands.

Children interact well with one another and the child minder. They enjoy taking turns to roll down the exercise mat to practice their tumbling skills. Children are learning to share appropriately. For example, during a craft activity they shared the materials on offer. Children are learning about kindness. For instance, a child showed how they care for their baby doll and gave the doll lots of cuddles before placing it in a buggy.

Children are active and suitably engaged in their play and learning experiences. They enjoy story time and practice repeating new words, counting the animal pictures and naming the colours correctly. Children concentrated well as they completed a paper plate pumpkin. They carefully spread the glue on the plate with a brush and stuck on small pieces of orange tissue paper to cover it.

Children are developing their independence skills appropriately. For instance, a child practiced putting their shoes on. Children explore their play area freely to follow their own interests. They are learning to do some 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 is responsive to children's individual needs and requests in a sensitive and timely manner. She consistently praises children for their efforts and achievements.

The child minder has an improved understanding of adult:child ratios in accordance with National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare. The child minder presented evidence of complying with regulations with regards to the ages of children cared for. She has improved her recording of children's daily attendance but the times they attend are not consistently included.

The child minder encourages children to wash their hands, and this helps to promote their personal hygiene practice appropriately. However, she did not provide clean water in the hand wash bowl for each child to wash their hands to avoid cross contamination. This was discussed with the child minder, and she took action to address this matter immediately. Nappy changing procedures are now in line with current infection control guidance. The child minder is not always following her food and drink policy consistently. She is not providing children with adequate facilities to sit and eat their snacks and meals together and does not always provide appropriate crockery and cutlery. For instance, children stood by the table to eat their packed lunch from home and the child minder served them cubed pieces of cheese and sliced banana directly onto the table. The child minder is not following the Welsh Government food and nutrition guidance regarding healthy hydration. For instance, she serves children diluted fruit squash to drink.

The child minder organises suitable play and learning experiences. She encourages children's interests in books and story time activities. The child minder helps children to develop their language, communication and counting skills appropriately. The child minder engages positively in children's play. For instance, she played along with children as they enjoyed a peek a boo activity under a blanket.

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.

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. There is a lack of natural and re-cycled materials to develop children's curiosity and help them practice using their senses. The outdoor area is spacious and consists of playhouses, a mud / water kitchen, swing and slide to help develop children's physical skills. However, we did not observe outdoor play during our visit.

The child minder has improved her written risk assessments to reflect the premises, activities and outings. However, she is not following these risk assessments consistently to fully ensure children's safety. This is placing 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 this issue. The child minder supervises children suitably most of the time. However, we observed an instance where children were left unsupervised and were able to climb onto a table. This is placing children's health and wellbeing at risk, and we have therefore re-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 further improvements are required to meet regulations and standards.

The child minder has produced a 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.

The child minder has not submitted an improved report reviewing the quality of care which reflects 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 child minder to take action.

The child minder was informed at the last two inspections she has not collated all the required information on children to ensure she can fully meet their individual needs. A priority action notice has been issued and the child minder was told to take action to address this matter. The child minder told us she had produced a new form for parents / carers to complete to gather the required information in future. 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.

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
25	The registered person must risk assess all areas of the premises fully and follow the risk assessment which reflects the premises, activities, resources and outings consistently 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 consistently noting their hours of attendance.	Not Achieved
20	The registered person must ensure children are supervised vigilantly at all times.	Not Achieved
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	Achieved

	years.	
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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

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 12 - Food and drink	Make arrangements to provide sociable opportunities for children during meal and refreshment times, using tables, seating and appropriate crockery and cutlery.
Standard 12 - Food and drink	To follow the Welsh Government Food and Nutrition guidance for child care settings in relation to healthy hydration.
Standard 7 - Opportunities for	Consider more natural, sustainable and re-cycled resources to build on children's curiosity and help them to practice using their senses.

play and learning	
Standard 10 - Healthcare	To follow the Infection Prevention and Control Guidance (2019) for Childcare Settings (0-5 years) in Wales (Nurseries, Childminding and Playgroups) in relation to handwashing procedures to reduce the risk of cross contamination.

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