



# Childcare Inspection Report on

**Clare Wilkinson**

**Abertillery**



**Date of Publication**

**Tuesday, 21 May 2019**

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## **Description of the service**

The child minder is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) to provide home based childcare for up to ten children under 12 years. Her service is located in Aberbeeg, near Abertillery. Child minding takes place on the ground floor of the home, with easy access to an enclosed back garden. This is a mainly English language service with some use of Welsh.

## **Summary of our findings**

### **1. Overall assessment**

This was a focused inspection looking mainly at the well-being of minded children and aspects of the child minder's service which related to a concern received.

Overall, we found children are cared for by a motivated child minder who promotes their well-being effectively. They receive warm and sensitive care and are able to build up nurturing relationships with the child minder. They are secure and settled, and confident to express their views and make their own decisions. In general, the service is managed well and children's safety is promoted. However, recent arrangements in place for school pick-ups and drop-offs designed to promote the younger children's well-being had meant for short periods of time the child minder was not operating in line with the conditions of her registration or acting in a manner consistent with the statement of purpose. Following the inspection, the child minder took steps to address the issues.

### **2. Improvements**

As this was a focused inspection we did not look at this area.

### **3. Requirements and recommendations**

We recommended children are given more opportunities to practise pouring their own drinks, to promote their self-help skills.

# **1. Well-being**

## **Summary**

Children enjoy their time with the child minder. They are relaxed and settled, and enjoy responsive and attentive care. They are confident to follow their own interests and express their views.

## **Our findings**

### **1.1 To what extent do children have a voice?**

Children express their views and make choices about their activities successfully. They move confidently between the living room and conservatory, and make suitable choices about what to play with. They are confident the child minder will respond to their requests to, for example, help them set up their train track. They are able to make their own decisions about how much they would like to eat and are happy to request more or different food.

Children express their views well and are confident they will be listened to.

### **1.2 To what extent do children feel safe, happy and valued?**

Children are secure and relaxed with the child minder. They settle well and forge strong bonds of attachment with her. They are happy and approach the child minder easily for cuddles and support. They enjoy lots of individual attention, natural conversation and positive interactions. They know where to put their belongings, and can easily find their toys and books, which helps them feel at home and welcome at the child minders. They are confident the child minder will respond to their individual needs, such as helping them find their water bottles.

Children are relaxed, confident and feel safe at the child minders.

### **1.3 How well do children interact?**

Children are learning to share and take turns in line with their age and stage of development. For example, one child was happy to share the microphones, with gentle support from the child minder. They are happy to follow the child minder's requests to, for example, sit at the table to eat their snack, and are developing their social skills well.

Children interact well with each other and the child minder.

#### **1.4 To what extent do children enjoy their play and learning?**

Children enjoy a good variety of activities at the child minder's home and out and about at, for example, local parent and toddler groups. They engage well with the activities available to them, such as books and dressing up, and enjoy involving the child minder in their play. They are proud of their 'creations' such as their 'frying pan and pancake'.

Children enjoy their learning through a good range of age appropriate play opportunities.

#### **1.5 How well do children develop, learn and become independent?**

Children are developing their self-help skills well. They successfully manage their own food and help themselves to their own drink bottles. However, they do not always have the opportunity to practise pouring their own drinks. They can easily access the resources available to them, and are confident to seek support if they need it. They are developing their social skills through their very positive interactions with the child minder, each other and the activities such as parent and toddler groups.

Children are developing their independence skills successfully.

## **2. Care and Development**

This was a focused inspection which looked mainly at the issues raised in the concern received. We therefore did not look at this theme at this inspection. This theme will be considered in full at the next inspection.

### **3. Environment**

This was a focused inspection which looked mainly at the issues raised in the concern received. We therefore did not look at this theme at this inspection. This theme will be considered in full at the next inspection.

## **4. Leadership and Management**

### **Summary**

This was a focused inspection which looked mainly at the issues raised in a concern received. We therefore only looked at areas within this theme which related to the concern. We found one aspect of the service was not being run in accordance with the relevant legislation. This was addressed following the inspection.

### **Our findings**

#### **4.1 How effective is leadership?**

Overall, leadership is good. However, recent arrangements during school pick-ups and drop-offs designed to promote the well-being of the younger children had led the child minder's service to be non-compliant with the regulations. This is because the child minder was not operating her service in line with the conditions of her registration or statement of purpose. Following the inspection the child minder took steps to rectify the issues.



## **5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection**

### **5.1 Areas of non-compliance from previous inspections**

None

### **5.2 Areas of non-compliance from this inspection**

None

### **5.2 Recommendations for improvement**

Consider encouraging children to pour their own drinks at meal times to promote their self-help skills.

## **6. How we undertook this inspection**

We undertook this inspection due to a concern raised regarding the child minder's service. The inspection was a focused inspection, which looked mainly at children's well-being and areas related to the concern.

- One inspector visited the service; the visit was announced and took approximately three hours;
- we observed the children in the child minder's home;
- we interacted with the children;
- we looked at what we already knew about the service, and
- we looked at the daily attendance register and statement of purpose.

Further information about what we do can be found on our website:

[www.careinspectorate.wales](http://www.careinspectorate.wales)

## 7. About the service

|                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Type of care provided                                                          | Child Minder                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Registered Person                                                              | Clare Wilkinson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Registered maximum number of places                                            | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Age range of children                                                          | 6 months to 12 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Opening hours                                                                  | 7am to 5.30pm, Mondays to Thursdays<br>7am to 4pm on Fridays                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Operating Language of the service                                              | English                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection                            | 4 October 2017                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Dates of this inspection visit                                                 | 8 March 2019                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Is this a Flying Start service?                                                | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Is early years education for three and four year olds provided at the service? | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Does this service provide the Welsh Language active offer?                     | This is a service that does not provide an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It does not anticipate, identify or meet the Welsh language needs of people /children who use, or intend to use their service. We recommend that the service provider considers Welsh Government's <i>More 'Than Just Words follow on strategic guidance for Welsh language in social care'</i> . |
| Additional Information: None                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |