



Childcare Inspection Report on

Alison Sinnett

Guilsfield



Date Inspection Completed

30/07/2019

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Description of the service

Alison Sinnett is registered to care for a maximum of 10 children under the age of 12 years in her home in Guilsfield, Powys. She lives in a detached property, which is within easy walking distance of the local school from where she collects children. The service is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The main language of the service is English and the service does not implement the 'Active Offer' in relation to the Welsh language.

Summary

1. Overall assessment

This was a focused inspection that only looked at well-being, aspects of care and development and leadership and management.

Children enjoy their time with the child minder. They are happy, settled and able to make choices for themselves. The child minder knows children's preferences and uses positive encouragement to ensure they eat well and stay hydrated. She understands what improvements need to be made to run the service effectively. However, there are areas the child minder needs to improve in order to meet legal requirements.

2. Improvements

Following our first inspection the child minder took steps to ensure she adheres to the number of children of each age group she can care for at any one time and that she does not care for more children than she is registered to do so. She now ensures she keep accurate records of attendance for each child, including their ages so she can refer to these when considering requests by parents for additional days than those contracted. Each child's contract has also been updated.

3. Requirements and recommendations

We found that the child minder did not meet legal requirements as she had breached her conditions of registration by exceeding the maximum number of children she is registered to care for. We have not issued a non-compliance notice on this occasion as we did not observe any adverse effects on children's well-being.

1. Well-being

Summary

Children are happy, settled and have formed positive attachments with the child minder and each other. They enjoy the suitable range of activities on offer which allows them to concentrate for an appropriate amount of time. They are given time to make their own decisions and to do things for themselves.

Our findings

Children were able to make choices and decisions. They moved freely between the toys laid out for them and were comfortable to approach the child minder and ask for other toys to be provided. For example, one child asked for the play dough and the child minder agreed they could set out the play dough on the table after lunch. Children felt valued as their individual preferences and needs were respected. For example, one child became tired part way through their lunch. The child minder put their pudding to one side for the child to enjoy later and helped them to settle for a sleep by giving cuddles and providing their comforter.

Children were settled, happy and had formed close bonds with each other and with the child minder. One child was asleep when we first arrived and was surprised when they woke up to find another person present. They quickly settled and felt secure upon receiving lots of reassurance from the child minder. They approached the child minder for cuddles throughout our visit and enjoyed showing the child minder, and us, the toys they had chosen to play with, showing they felt secure in the child minder's care.

Children co-operated well and helped with small tasks. For example, when asked to help tidy the toys before lunch the children did so willingly. Children gained a sense of pride as they were praised often for following instructions and for displaying positive behaviour. We heard lots of responses of '*well done*' when children attempted to build a block tower by themselves and when they shared toys. One child enjoyed spending time with a younger baby and showed sensitivity to their emotions by enjoying making them smile.

Children followed their interests and directed their own play as a suitable range of activities were available for them to choose from. They concentrated appropriately on the activities available to them. For example, one baby enjoyed experimenting with the different musical toys. They smiled and showed interest when the child minder showed them how to create different noises and were eager to try to make music themselves.

Children enjoyed exploring the resources and activities provided. They were encouraged to do things for themselves and to be involved in tasks. For example, children were encouraged to feed themselves at lunchtime and were given plenty of time to complete tasks independently.

2. Care and Development

Summary

The child minder and the children in her care have formed positive relationships and she has a good knowledge of their individual preferences.

Our findings

As this was a focused inspection we did not inspect all key areas, however the whole theme will be considered at future inspections.

The child minder keeps details of children's individual needs and preferences and knows the children well. This enables her to arrange activities and toys that the children enjoy. We spoke with the child minder regarding the arrangements for dealing with meal times. She told us that parents send in all meals and snacks for their children and that she does not prepare food. She explained if a child did not want to eat their food she would document this in the child's diary, share this information with parents and come to an agreement with them about what how they could encourage the child to eat. We observed lunch time and saw how the child minder encouraged children to eat their food with gentle prompts and encouragement and gave lots of praise when they ate their food or showed appropriate table manners. Children responded well to this and ate most of their food.

3. Environment

As this was a focused inspection we did not inspect all key areas, however the whole theme will be considered at future inspections.

4. Leadership and Management

Summary

The child minder is experienced, suitably qualified and understands what improvements need to be made to run the service to an appropriate standard.

Our findings

As this was a focused inspection we did not inspect all key areas, however the whole theme will be considered at future inspections.

The child minder is registered to care for a maximum of ten children. The National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare states that of those ten children, no more than six may be under 8 years of age, and of those six children, no more than three may be under 5 years of age. On the day of our first visit, we found four children present who were under the age of 5 years. When asked, the child minder told us that there were 8 more children due to attend that afternoon bringing the total of children to 12 under the age of 12. We informed the child minder that she was breaching her conditions of registration. We informed her that measures must be put in place to ensure compliance and the child minder acknowledged this and assured us that she would address the matter. Since the inspection visit the child minder has sent detailed information on the numbers and ages of children in attendance on each day. We also received a copy of a letter sent out to parents informing them that the child minder will not be able to offer a space to children on days which they are not contracted for unless she has space to do so.

During our second visit the child minder was operating within her conditions of registration and the daily registers and children's contracts confirmed that this was the case since the date of our first visit. The child minder showed us how she now includes the children's ages on the records of attendance so she can refer to these when considering requests by parents for additional days than those contracted and ensure she does not care for more children than she should in any age group.

5. Improvements required and recommended following this inspection

5.1 Areas of non compliance from previous inspections

None

5.2 Recommendations for improvement

We have advised the child minder that she was in breach of one of her conditions of registration as on our first visit they told us they were caring for 12 children where the service is only registered to provide care for up to 10 children. The child minder was also not adhering to the recommended maximum number of children of different age groups a child minder can care for (as stated in the National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare) as she was caring for four children under the age of 5 years on the day of our first visit.

We have not issued a notice in relation to this matter as the child minder has taken prompt action and has reduced the number of children being cared for on any one day and has also put measures into place to ensure she does not deviate from the recommended number of children under the age of 8 years. The child minder ensures she does not care for more than 10 children in total on any one day. Of those 10 children, no more than six should be under 8 years old and of those six, no more than three should be under 5 years old.

6. How we undertook this inspection

This was an inspection undertaken following concerns we received relating to the number of children cared for, encouraging children to eat and drink appropriately and adhering to appropriate adult to child ratios. One inspector and one team manager attempted an inspection on 7 May 2019. We were unable to complete the inspection on this date, although we had a brief meeting with the child minder. One inspector returned to the service on the 30 July 2019 between 11:20 a.m. and 1:40 p.m.

We:

- inspected the daily registers, children's contracts and the child minder's daily diary;
- observed practice and completed observations to capture evidence of children's engagement and the care being provided by the child minder;
- spoke to the children and the child minder;
- we looked at the areas used by children and resources on the day of our inspection, and
- we gave detailed feedback to the child minder of what we found and what needed to be addressed.

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

www.careinspectorate.wales

7. About the service

Type of care provided	Child Minder
Registered Person	Alison Sinnett
Registered maximum number of places	10
Age range of children	0-12 years
Opening hours	7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday
Operating Language of the service	English
Date of previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	16 October 2018
Dates of this inspection visit(s)	30 July 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 the 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:	

Date Published 11/09/2019